



THE TIMES Tomorrow Next week will see the start of the first-ever public inquiry in this country into the merits and possible dangers of a drug. The product is Depo-Provera, an injectable contraceptive which is said to be as effective as the pill but which some authorities claim can be missed and might have unacceptable side-effects in certain cases. Tomorrow, the Wednesday Page examines the facts behind the debate over Depo-Provera and reports on the evidence gathered by those who support the drug and those who say it should not be widely used. On the Spectrum page, Christopher Thomas reports on the British invasion of New York that begins tomorrow - an operation which will present America with the best of British culture.

14 'loyalist' terrorists are jailed

Fourteen men, including leading members of the outlawed 'loyalist' Ulster Volunteer Force, received two life sentences and a total of 200 years in jail after being convicted at Belfast Crown Court of terrorist offences on evidence supplied by a "supergrass".

Record £573m bid for Tilling BTR, the industrial conglomerate, made a record British industrial bid when it offered £573m for Thomas Tilling, whose businesses include Heinemann publishing, Cornhill Insurance and Pretty Polly tights.

Livingstone curb The action of left-wing groups in nominating Mr Kenneth Livingstone as prospective parliamentary candidate for Brent, East, was outside the Labour Party's constitution, a report states.

Shares boom The FT index rose to a record 683.9, up 8.9, and the pound moved smartly ahead, closing up 2.20 cents at \$1.5270, on hopes of an early cut in base rates.

Queen for India The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference in New Delhi in November, when the Queen will also visit Kenya and Bangladesh.

Thames bomb A German bomb from the Second World War, found by a Thames dredger, brought central London's rush hour to a standstill.

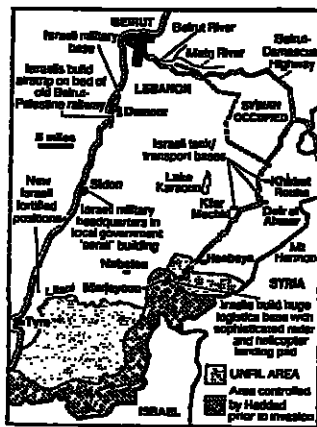
Czechs can stay A Czechoslovak family of four who faced religious persecution at home are to be allowed to remain in Britain on compassionate grounds.

Willis plea England's cricket captain, Bob Willis, will today put the case to the Cricketers' Association for changing the county championship from three-day play to four days.

Table with 2 columns: Page number and Page number. Includes Home News, Overseas, Arts, Bridge, Business, Chess, Court, Crossword.

Large army bases tighten Israeli grip on Lebanon

Despite the protracted negotiations for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, the Israeli Army has built, and is still building, a series of large and sophisticated military bases across southern and central Lebanon. They include hardened helicopter pads, elaborate radar systems, newly tarmacaded tank parks and concrete and brick buildings, all constructed as if the Israelis were planning to stay in Lebanon for years, rather than withdraw from the country in accordance with President Reagan's wishes.



South of Sidon, next to the oil terminal at Zahrani, a complex military encampment is growing larger each week with barracks, armoured vehicle parking lots and transport sections. On the other side of the central mountain chain that divides Lebanon, along the floor of the Aroub and lower Bekaa valleys, the Israelis have constructed a whole series of fortified military bases, many of them protected by 20ft high earth ramparts.

Reagan tries to put the pieces together

President Reagan kept in contact yesterday with moderate Arab leaders in an attempt to salvage his Middle East peace plan after the refusal of King Hussein of Jordan to take part in Palestinian autonomy negotiations. Despite the President's publicly expressed optimism that his September 1 initiative was still alive, United States officials were much less sanguine in private. Some admitted that the plan had received a body blow but could still be revived.

Senior officials said the President was determined to press ahead despite the setback. Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said: "The job is too important for him to be deterred by events of the weekend. He will persevere... he is in for a long haul." From the outset American officials had made it clear that the key to the initiative lay with King Hussein. If he agreed to join talks on the plan, they believed Israel would take part as well - despite its initial rejection.

Growing belief in a June election

Conservative MPs returned to Westminster yesterday after their 10-day Easter recess with an enhanced belief that the Prime Minister may be willing to hold a general election in June, a course which a clear majority of them now favour. Many were encouraged yesterday by the evidence that talk of an early election had contributed to a strengthening of the pound, based on expectations that the Conservatives would be returned. Members of the Government, who sound less confident in private than in public of an election victory, had feared that uncertainty about the outcome might damage sterling.

Just outside the town of Marjayoun, which is Major Saad Haddad's "capital", there now stands a sprawling logistics base bristling with radar and transmission equipment and with a helicopter landing pad just to the south.

Most of the bases further up the valley, outside the villages of Kfar Meshki, Dair el Ahmar and Khirbet Rouha, are clearly visible from Syrian forward positions on the mountains and Soviet satellites will have had no difficulty in photographing them.

Ironically, some have been constructed on the wreckage of old Syrian Army depots, which were captured in the Bekaa fighting last June. The main road up to the Syrian lines just north of Khirbet Rouha has been widened by the Israelis to take armoured vehicles. Along the entire highway, which is still fringed by the ruins of Syrian tanks and trucks, all but four of the road signs are in Hebrew.

By far the greater part of Israel's occupation Army is now positioned along this road. Both inside Lebanon and along its frontier, Syria has more than 40,000 troops - a third of its entire Army - and could probably roll back the Israeli lines in a surprise attack, though only at enormous cost.

Arab held after PLO man's death

Portuguese police are holding a man in connexion with the assassination of Issam Sartawi, the leading Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) moderate, at the Hotel Al-Buhaira in the Algarve on Sunday morning. His name has been given as Yussef al-Awad, aged 26, an Arab holding a Moroccan passport issued in Casablanca.

He was detained in a Lisbon hotel on Sunday afternoon having apparently taken a taxi from an hotel in the Algarve near the Montechoro Hotel. He is due to appear in court this afternoon although it is still unclear as to what the charge will be. Police sources say that they have not yet verified the validity of his passport, nor of the dollars he was carrying.

Portuguese newspaper reports state that he spent Saturday night in the hotel and handed in his key at 9 am on Sunday and left the hotel, returning about 40 minutes later to pay his bill and order a taxi to take him to Lisbon. Mr Sartawi was killed at 9.07 am. It is still unclear as to how many gunmen were involved in the attack. The police chased one attacker across the Hotel Montechoro courtyard, but lost him. Mr Sartawi's assistant, Mr Awad, was also slightly injured, says he saw two men.

Wholly unwelcome, say staff and company

Sotheby Parke Bernet finally came under the hammer yesterday. After months of speculation, the world's leading but loss-making fine art auctioneering group has received a takeover bid from its main American shareholder. A \$60.6m offer, worth 520p in cash per Sotheby's share, was launched by GFI/Knoll, an American manufacturer of furniture and felt under-carpeting owned by Mr Marshall Cogan and Mr Stephen Swid, two New York financiers and art collectors. Their interests snapped up nearly 14 per cent of Sotheby's



Caught on the hop: The Princess of Wales catches a shy young admirer off balance during her walkabout in Brisbane yesterday. Report page 6

Falkland pilgrims remember their dead beneath the sea

The Falklands bereaved continued their pilgrimage yesterday with a simple, dignified and moving act of remembrance for those 174 members of the task force who have no grave but the sea. Several hundred relatives crowded the aft helicopter deck of their liner, Comandante Sarmiento in diamond bright sun, the low-rising hills to port wreathed in haze of heat. As dawn in escort trailed HMS Active and HMS Cardiff, sisters to the Antelope and the Ardent, the Coventry and the Sheffield, and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Fort Grange, their ensigns dipped to half mast as the strains of "O God our Help in Ages Past" drifted across the bright glassy water. In all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord." As the congregation broke into "Eternal Father Strong to Save" several of the relatives were overcome by the moment and the music and wept openly. Representatives of all the task force services and Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner, lined the stern rail to cast five wreaths on the water and to watch them drift away in the Comandante's wake. As the Royal Marines Band played Elgar's Nimrod the relatives gathered by the rail to shower the placid sea with a cascade of flowers. In a moment they were left behind, lost to the sight of all but the inquisitive petrels swooping in hope of food. Then the Cardiff followed by the Active formed up to sail past in line to starboard, their crews lining the rails with caps off in silent tribute to their dead comrades. Watching with the Comandante's pilgrims were 46 survivors of the peril on the sea, 14 from the Coventry, 12 from the

Sergeant killed burnt Argentine

By Philip Webster Political Reporter An Argentine prisoner of war on the Falklands Islands who was burning to death after an explosion while he was moving ammunition was shot by a British soldier to put him out of his agony. Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, disclosed details of the incident last night in a Commons reply about inquiries into the death and injury of Argentine POWs while in British custody and made clear that no disciplinary action would be taken against the sergeant involved. The Ministry of Defence last night declined to name him or his regiment. Four POWs died as a result of the explosion on June 1 last year at Goose Green and a further eight were injured. The inquiry has found that there was no breach of the Geneva convention which prevents POWs from being forced to do dangerous work. Mr Heseltine, stating it had been concluded that the work could be classed as dangerous, said that the prisoners had undertaken their task without coercion. Mr Heseltine gave a graphic account in his reply of the dilemma facing the sergeant. After the action at Darwin and Goose Green large quantities of arms and ammunition were found, posing a threat to the civilian population which could not return home until the houses had been checked and cleared. British forces had to give high priority to making the ammunition safe and clearing it to a central collection point at the airfield, while guarding many Argentine POWs accommodated in a large sheep-shearing shed. Mr Heseltine went on: "On the afternoon of June 1, 1982 a prisoner of war work detail under the supervision of an Argentine officer and guarded by three British soldiers was engaged on the task of moving ammunition from near the sheep-shearing shed when there was a loud explosion. A very fierce fire began and although rescuers managed to pull the injured clear, one prisoner of war was seen to stagger back into the flames. Attempts to reach him failed and a sergeant of the British forces who had over a period of some minutes been repeatedly driven back by the heat and flames and who thought the prisoner was beyond assistance but still alive and in agony obtained a rifle and fired three or four shots at the man." Mr Heseltine said that shortly after the incident an Argentine officer had complained that a British soldier had shot a prisoner of war. Eye-witnesses, including the sergeant, were interviewed and the facts explained to Argentine officers who accepted them and did not pursue the matter further.

Advertisement for SAA (South African Airways) featuring the text 'Fly the Lion's Share of convenience and comfort to South Africa!' and 'SAA Blue Diamond First Class gives you: A full night's rest on luxurious Stratocruiser seats...'. Includes the SAA logo and contact information.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Theft from disc jockey of power boat cash denied by businessman

By Stewart Teadler, Crime Reporter

Basil Wainwright, a businessman, yesterday denied charges of dishonestly obtaining more than £40,000 from Mr Noel Edmunds, the disc jockey.

He pleaded not guilty at Worcester Crown Court to a total of 22 charges, including nine of theft, five of forgery, five of false accounting, two of obtaining money by deception and one of obtaining money through a pecuniary advantage.

Miss Cuffie denies on charge of theft, four of forgery and five of false accounting. All the alleged offences took place between October, 1980, and last August.

The theft and deception charges against Mr Wainwright and his connexion with Mr

Edmunds centred on a firm called Creaseglen Ltd, which is based at Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, Mr Michael Pratt, QC, for the prosecution, told the court.

The firm was set up to develop a hydro-wing powerboat called Excalibur, with which Mr Edmunds hoped to beat the world water speed record.

Mr Edmunds first met Mr Wainwright when they filmed the motoring programme, *Top Gear*, at the BBC studios in Birmingham, Mr Pratt told the jury.

He said that Mr Wainwright was promoting a new system of ignition through his company, Wainwright International Incorporated which is based in America.

During the meeting at the television studios Mr Edmunds told Mr Wainwright and Mr Frederick Stidworthy, an inventor, of Warwick, of his idea for a record-breaking speedboat.

Mr Stidworthy produce plans based on the idea and Mr Wainwright got in touch with Mr Edmunds in November, 1980. Mr Edmunds agreed, Mr Pratt said, on a pound-for-pound basis to invest £70,000 in

the project. The first craft would belong to Mr Edmunds and would be called Excalibur.

The plans were finalized at a meeting in Stratford-on-Avon in January, 1981, Mr Pratt said. Later that month Mr Edmunds paid £10,000 to Creaseglen.

Mr Edmunds was presented with a miniature model of Excalibur, and by May had paid in the Creaseglen his agreed £70,000.

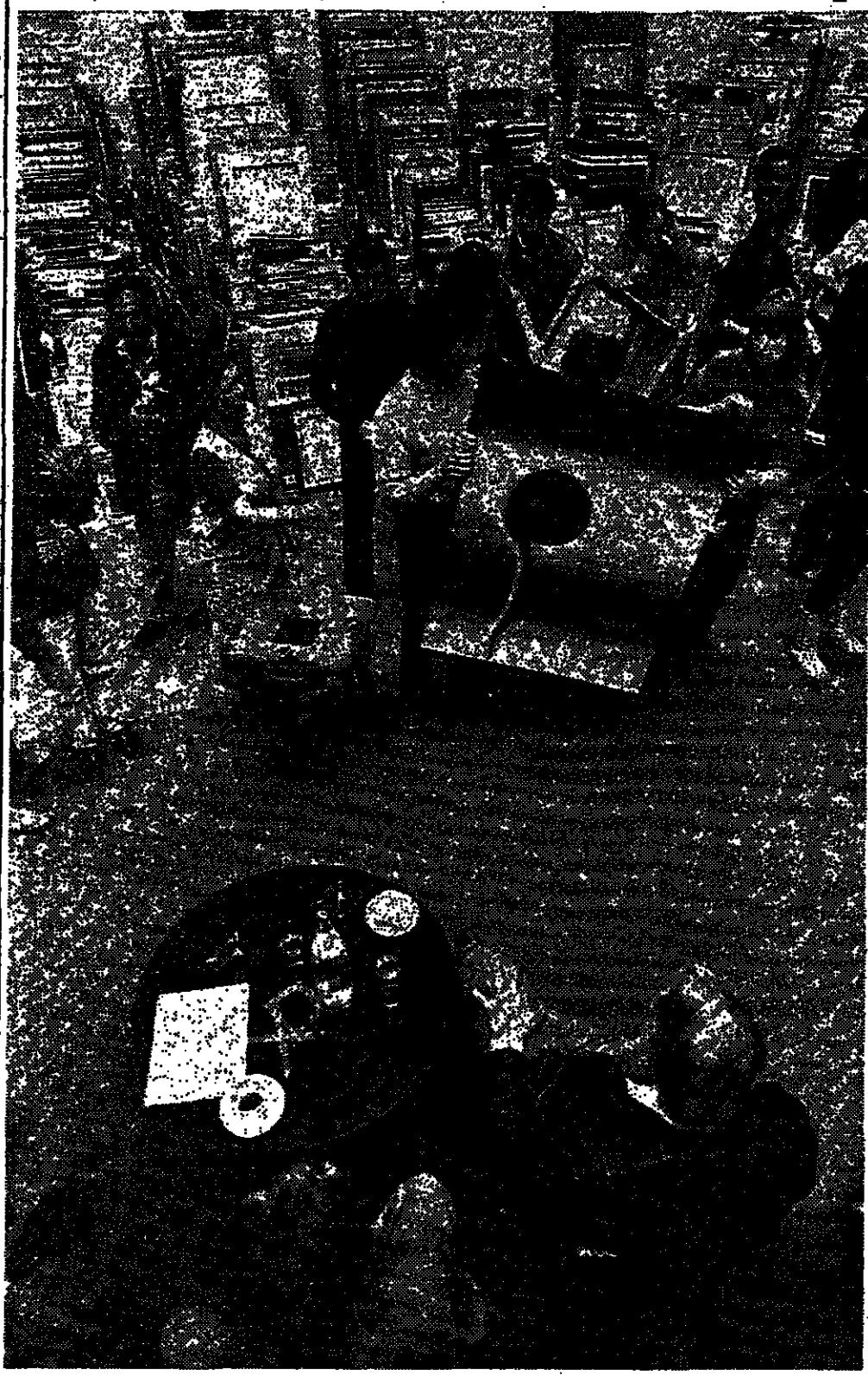
Mr Pratt said that because of Mr Edmunds' involvement the BBC planned to make a film of the project, which was to be called "Birth of a Boat". He told the jury that a more apt title might have been "The Boat that never was".

He said that eventually Mr Edmunds became concerned because he could not see accounts kept by Mr Wainwright concerning Creaseglen. So in July, 1981, "with a sense of drama," the BBC sent a camera crew to interview Mr Edmunds and Mr Wainwright at the Redditch factory.

By that time the Creaseglen bank account was overdrawn by more than £21,000 and Mr Edmunds did not know what had happened to his money.

The trial continues today.

Artists canvass the RA critics for a place in the exhibition . . .



. . . but for some, rejection

The grimly named "hanging committee" of the Royal Academy of Arts (RA) yesterday began its annual task of selecting paintings and other works for its summer exhibition. About 13,000 works have been submitted for the event, which runs from May 28 until August 28.

Paintings arriving by the barrow-load were passed like fire buckets along a human chain of art students so that they could be displayed in front of distinguished judges, including Rodrigo Moylan (above).

A show of hands determined whether the artist's pride and joy got an "X" for reject or a "D" for doubtful hastily chalked on the back.

The panel, chaired by Peter Greenham, RA schools chair-

Train gang used Trojan horse plan

A gang of train robbers used a Trojan horse method to carry out thefts last August of Post Office mail, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

A man hid in a large locked trunk equipped with oxygen apparatus to enable him to breathe. The trunk was then dispatched with another into the train's security compartment.

During the journey from Euston to Stoke-on-Trent he emerged through a false door in the side of the trunk and then loaded the second with mailbags full of valuable property. He was however, caught, by detectives who had been investigating large-scale thefts from trains, the court heard.

James Hanrahan, aged 42, a decorator, of Kenilworth, north London, the slightly built man who hid in the trunk, was jailed for four years. Elisa Paule, aged 24, of Green Lanes, north London, who bought the tickets and travelled on the train, was given a 12-month sentence, suspended for two years.

George Howard, aged 52, an actor, of Jupiter Way, Islington, north London, who recruited Paule and helped to organize the scheme, was sentenced to three years. Michael Montague, aged 34, a motor mechanic, of Lower Clapton, north-east London, was jailed for his part as the "strong man" who carried the trunk containing Hanrahan to the train. They all pleaded guilty to conspiracy to steal Post Office mail from the train in August last year.

Judge Bax said: "The courts can only take an extremely serious view of people who set out to violate the security system."

Mr Michael Sayers, for the prosecution, said it was a highly organized attack on the supposed vandal-proof contents of royal mail. They had adopted the system of the Trojan horse to gain entry to the security luggage parts of the train. However, he said, it was "nipped in the bud" by luck and good police work.

Hanrahan worked for the Post Office for 18 years and knew the security system. When he left through "ill health", he kept the keys to vital security locks and his uniform. He thought up the scheme.

Paule was arrested on the train and confessed to the scheme, and Howard and another man were captured as they waited with a hired van at Stoke-on-Trent to unload the trunks.

Czech family can stay in Britain

By Frances Gibb

The Home Secretary yesterday agreed to allow a Czechoslovak family of four who face deportation to remain in Britain on compassionate grounds after representations from Conservative MPs.

Mr Bohuslav Starosta, his wife and their two sons came to Britain from Prague in December, 1981, with three-week holiday visas and sought political asylum on the ground that they faced religious persecution as Christians. They belong to a Moravian church.

Their application to stay was refused, first by the immigration appeals adjudicator and then by the appeals tribunal, although both of those said there were compassionate grounds for allowing the family to remain.

Yesterday, after Mr David Waddington, the Home Office Minister responsible for immigration, had announced the Home Secretary's decision, Mr Starosta, who is aged 37 and is a quantity surveyor, said: "It is fantastic news. We are so pleased." He intends to try to get a job.

The normal procedure in such cases is that after a year the Starostas can make an application to remain in Britain indefinitely. Unless the political situation in Czechoslovakia changes, they are likely to be allowed to do so.

A Home Office spokesman said that the case had been under consideration since the appeal was rejected in March. Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, had reached his decision because of the compassionate circumstances, and the family were remaining on this basis, not as political refugees.

Representations had been made by Mr Brian MacWhinney, Conservative MP for Peterborough, and Sir Ian Gilmour, Conservative MP for Chesham and Amersham. Mr MacWhinney said that he was delighted with the decision.

"I am sure it is the right one and it is a response not only to the facts of the case but also to the pressure brought to bear, particularly from the Christian community on behalf of this family, who have been subjected to religious persecution in their homeland", he said.

The Rev Andrew Warburton, Mr Starosta's brother-in-law, said: "We are thrilled to bits as a family, although still suffering from shock. We did not expect the decision so quickly."

"I believe their case has been helped by that of the Romanian, Mr Stacu Papusoiu, (recently expelled from Britain) which has highlighted the problems of refugees from Eastern Europe."

House prices 'forced up by too much Green Belt'

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

London home-buyers faced steep price rises because too much land was classed as Green Belt, the House-Builders' Federation claimed in London yesterday. Mr Peter Woodrow, president of the federation and a buyer of land for the Wimpey group, said: "Whenever a piece of land comes on to the market we all want that same piece of land."

"We do not put in what the land is worth", he continued. "We have to put in what we think will bear the test. We are all forcing land prices up." Mr Roger Humber, director of the federation, said: "Housing land prices in London and the South-east have doubled in the past year. This is very bad news for home buyers."

The federation called for release for building of 240 acres of Green Belt on 21 sites owned

by London boroughs in the suburbs of the capital. Almost half of the land was near the Minet Estate, in Uxbridge, and the rest was scattered in small plots all round the outskirts of London.

The federation claimed that the sites had no value as Green Belt and that some were eyesores that would be improved by houses. They also called for a change in Green Belt policies so that councils would no longer be able to designate large tracts of countryside, but would have to justify the Green Belt value of each piece of land chosen.

"We as house builders are not trying to destroy Green Belt", Mr Humber said. "But we really cannot afford the luxury of the policies that we have now. Blanket policies must be replaced by a policy of qualitative examination of each site."

Evidence that aspirin and other anti-inflammatory drugs may make the coil less effective has also come from a group of French family planning experts.

They reported independently two months ago that four women taking such drugs had each become pregnant twice while fitted with an IUD.

Dr Dossetor said yesterday that she would advise women who use an IUD to take medicines such as Panadol or Paracetamol instead of aspirin. She has started distributing leaflets to her own IUD patients, warning them of the risks.

According to the most recent figures from the Family Planning Association, about 500,000 women in Britain are fitted with an IUD. Their normal failure rate is about three pregnancies a year per 100 women. An association spokesman said it was too soon to advise everyone with an IUD to avoid aspirin.

There is evidence that the coil stimulates the production of prostaglandins in some women.

Aspirin warning to coil users

By Clive Cookson

Women who use an intrauterine contraceptive device (IUD) should not take aspirin, a leading family planning doctor said yesterday.

Dr Jill Dossetor, who practises in Suffolk, reports in a letter to *Pulse* that only three of 1,000 patients she fitted with the multiloop coil (a particular type of IUD) had become pregnant; two conceived after doses of aspirin and the third was taking a related drug, Ponstan, which works like aspirin by preventing the formation of prostaglandin.

Swede cleared of aiding Boss burglary

A Swedish journalist accused of acting as a South African agent in Britain, was cleared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of involvement in a break-in at the London offices of an anti-apartheid organization.

The prosecution had alleged that Mr Bertil Wedin, aged 42, had been paid £1,000 a month by South Africa's security police formerly known as the Bureau of State Security (BOSS) to supply information about opponents of the regime.

The prosecution alleged that Mr Wedin had interviewed Mr Hamilton Keke, of the Pan African Congress of Azania (South Africa) at their

offices in High Road, Willesden, north-west London, ostensibly to write an article.

Later he produced a sketch pad of the offices to assist a burglar, who broke in and stole documents last summer, it was alleged. However the jury found Mr Wedin, of Tonbridge, Kent, not guilty of burglary between July 31 and August 10 last and not guilty of dishonestly receiving stolen letters and other documents between July 30 and September 14 last.

After his acquittal Mr Wedin, a former Swedish Army officer, who has an English wife, said he had supplied information to a South African company in good

faith, not realizing that it was a front for South African intelligence.

"If you are a political analyst you can never be sure where the information goes", he said.

Mr Roy Amfor, for the prosecution, had alleged that Mr Wedin and Peter Casleton were both working as South African agents and that Casleton arranged for Edward Aspinall, a convicted burglar, to break into the Pan African Congress offices. Mr Amfor said it was not alleged that Mr Wedin actually broke into the premises himself.

Casleton, aged 38, and Aspinall, aged 23, were jailed at

the Central Criminal Court in December last year after pleading guilty to conspiracy to burgle and possession of a prohibited weapon, a teargas aerosol.

Aspinall also admitted three specific burglaries on Anti-Apartheid offices in London: those of the African National Congress, the South West African Peoples' Organization and PAC. He was said to have been recruited by Warrant Officer Joseph Klue, a South African Embassy official, who was expelled from Britain last year. Casleton was jailed for four years and Aspinall for 18 months.

Heroism of Rob James's crewman praised

From Craig Seton, Plymouth

Rob James, the 38-year-old yachtsman, fought a losing battle against cold after falling from his trimaran and died in spite of the heroism of Mr Jeffrey Houlgrave, who jumped into the sea to try to save his skipper, an inquest in Plymouth was told yesterday.

Mr David Bishop, the Plymouth and south-west Devon Coroner, praised all four of Mr James's crew for their considerable effort but said heroism was probably the right word to use for Mr Houlgrave aged 29.

"Quite regardless of the risk to his own safety - and there was very considerable risk - he plunged into the cold water and assisted in the recovery until he was overcome by cold and fatigue," Mr Bishop said.

The inquest heard that Mr Houlgrave managed to get Mr James back to the side of the trimaran until his grip was broken by a large wave. Numerous attempts had been made to save Mr James after he fell from the trimaran Colt Cars GB two miles off Salcombe harbour just before dawn on March 20, and he could be heard shouting, "I am going down, I am going down."

after the tragedy, was not at the inquest and nor were any other members of Mr James's family.

Recording a verdict of accidental death on Mr James of Upper Enham, Andover, Mr Bishop said it was easy to be wise after the event but at that period of the year the time to effect any sort of recovery or rescue was considerably limited.

The inquest was told that when Mr James fell overboard Mr Paul Yeardon, a chartered surveyor of Bristol was helping to bring down the mainsail and Miss Michelle de Bruin, aged 20, was at the helm. Below, off watch, were Mr Houlgrave and Michael Cane, another crewman.

Mr Houlgrave told the inquest that he was warned by a shout of "man overboard" and after running on to the deck he threw a life ring to Mr James.

For 25 minutes his skipper could be seen in his white oilskins or heard shouting as the crew tried with difficulty to tack and bring the trimaran round to him; then it was decided that somebody had to go into the water to attempt a rescue.

Mr Houlgrave said he had jumped into the sea with a line tied around, "I managed to get hold of Rob and he was

conscious but with very little strength left. "I merely held him out of the water until we were dragged back", he said.

Mr Houlgrave said he and Mr James were alongside the hull of the trimaran but the waves were lifting them out of the water. "I was finding it very difficult to hang on and I was losing feeling in the extremities."

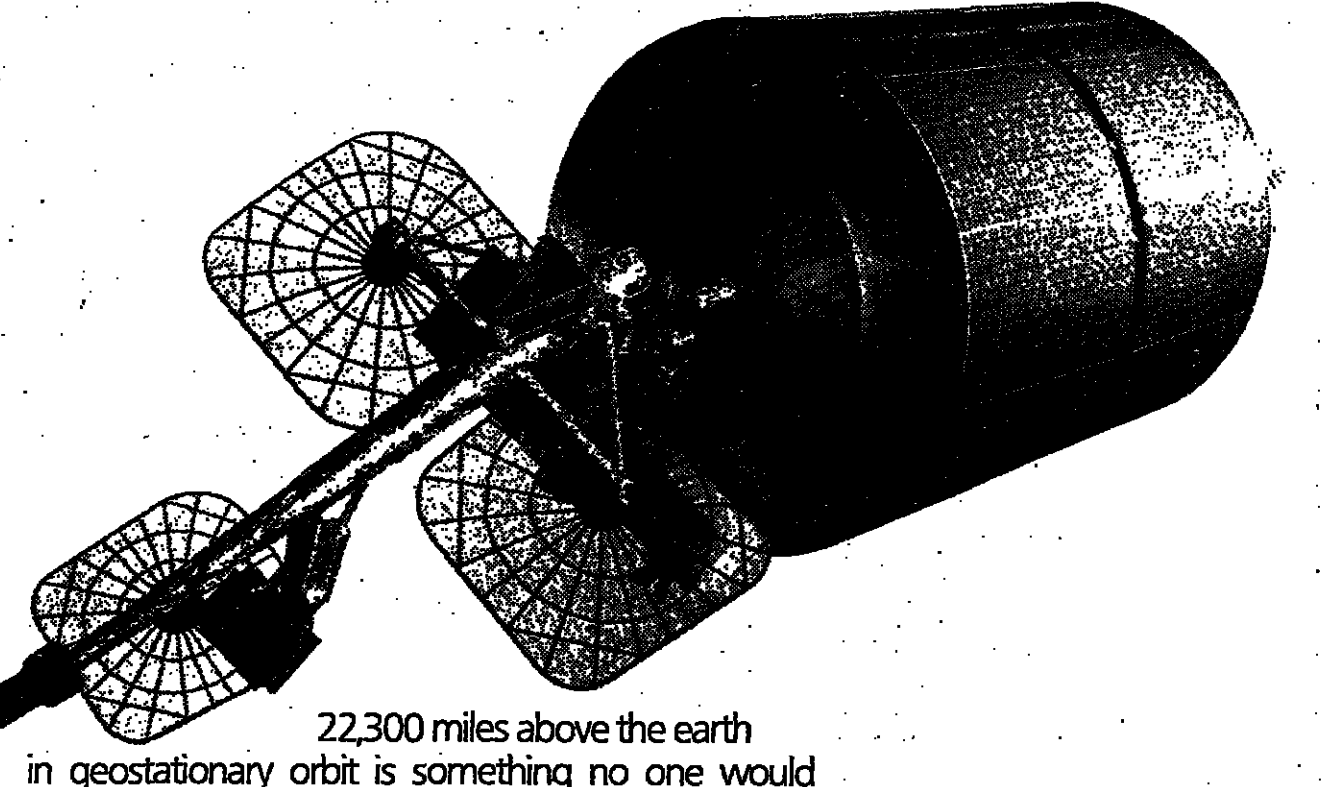
Mr Yeardon and Mr Cane had grabbed hold of Mr James by his oilskins but the waves had snatched him away. Mr Houlgrave said: "Shortly after, I lost my grip as well."

He said it would have been possible to launch the dinghy on board, given sufficient time. The idea was considered and discounted because of its limited use in strong winds.

Mr Houlgrave added: "There was no panic at any stage by anyone."

Riding tack raid

Saddles, bridles and horse rugs valued at £10,000 have been stolen from a farm at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. The stolen tack included 30 saddle sets, some branded with the letters NFB, belonging to Mrs Caroline Brake.



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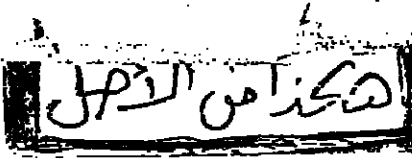
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Whitelaw seeks balance on data protection

COMMONS

Evidence of the information technology revolution was apparent wherever one looked, in banking, building societies, retail trading and mail order businesses, throughout commerce and industry and increasingly in government. Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said when moving the second reading of the Data Protection Bill.

The Bill, which has passed the Lords, was needed if the United Kingdom was to keep the service citizens and to ensure that the information technology business flourished. Mr Whitelaw said.

It achieved that by reassuring the public that the holding of personal information by computer was properly controlled and did not inhibit its use, and further it protected the international trading position by falling into line with the position of the increasing number of European nations that already had protective legislation.

Companies operating on a multinational basis - and thousands of jobs were involved in doing so - increasingly on the international interchange of computerized data, including personal data.

Although there had been few reported instances of misuse of information held on computers that did not mean there was no potential for abuse, nor should it blind anyone to the real concern that that potential could become reality if suitable controls were not introduced.

The Bill provided for the first time that the individual had a general right of access to data held about him and it required the registration of the holding and use of data.

It gave no new powers to the police or to any public authority other than the Data Protection Registrar.

The convention open for signature by the Council of Europe in 1981 offered an international standard for data protection which the government could consider its proposals. The Government's intention was to ratify the Council of Europe Convention and its provisions had been kept firmly in mind in drafting the Bill.

The fundamental problem was the fear of the capabilities of computers. The Bill was a measure to meet particular threats derived from the capacity of computers to store a mass of information and to locate specific items, and then link it with other information about the person in question.

This was not a measure for the general protection of personal information but one designed to meet the particular threats, actual or perceived, which derived from the use of computers: that is, their capacity to store a mass of information, their ability to locate items of information virtually instantaneously and then link it rapidly with other information about the person in question.

The Bill took eight general principles relating to the use of data, collected and held, disseminated. It required data only to be used in accordance with the purposes specified and provided for the quality of the data in accuracy, relevance, etc.

It also set out the principles of rights of access to the data held about people and its correction or erasure where necessary, and

provided adequate security measures to protect the data.

Compliance was enforceable through the provision of a registrar, who could consult and advise and negotiate before issuing orders.

A vital feature of the scheme was his capacity to use his discretionary powers to tailor his response to the circumstances of each case. This flexibility of approach was preferable to any scheme in which a user collecting data unfairly or holding inaccurate data was directly liable to criminal prosecution.

They had chosen a single registrar rather than a multi-member authority because it was the most economic use of resources, and since the scheme would be funded by data users themselves, this was particularly important to them.

The registrar would be able to act more readily, authoritatively and consistently than a committee. It would place a premium on consistency and the build up of a reputation for expertise best achieved by an individual. And, because of the variety of cases that would arise, a registrar who could accept advice from wherever he saw fit would be better equipped than a committee representing an inevitably incomplete range of interests.

The heart of the scheme was the requirement on data users to register. This could not be an onerous process, involving the answering of no more than six questions and payment of a small fee. The balance would be struck between the registrar would be able to act more readily, authoritatively and consistently than a committee. It would place a premium on consistency and the build up of a reputation for expertise best achieved by an individual. And, because of the variety of cases that would arise, a registrar who could accept advice from wherever he saw fit would be better equipped than a committee representing an inevitably incomplete range of interests.

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was a reason to believe that evidence would be found of a data protection offence or contravention of the protection principles.

The part of the Bill dealing with exemptions was the portion by which, in many people's minds, the rest of the scheme would be judged.

Apart from data held for domestic and other limited purposes, the only data wholly outside the scheme were those concerned with national security. It had been generally recognized, as a fact of the world in which they lived, that security needed special provisions.

All other data, including that held by police for crime prevention, would be registered and accessible by the registrar. But access could not be given to all police records if the prevention and detection of crime was not to be put at risk. It would be necessary to register and control access to his file which related to police suspicions about his criminal activities.

Transitional arrangements provided in the Bill were a further indication of the Government's determination to produce an effective data protection scheme, but one with which data users could comply without unnecessary inconvenience and expense.

The Government's proposals on data protection had been constructed with the aim of meeting people's fears in the face of advancing technology and of keeping Britain in step with overseas data protection practice.

The balance would be struck between the registrar would be able to act more readily, authoritatively and consistently than a committee. It would place a premium on consistency and the build up of a reputation for expertise best achieved by an individual. And, because of the variety of cases that would arise, a registrar who could accept advice from wherever he saw fit would be better equipped than a committee representing an inevitably incomplete range of interests.

Whitelaw: No vast quango

their data to inquiries and correct errors, but there was no way in which he had proper recourse if recourse if the information was improperly used.

Most often he would not know about it, and if he did, there would be no opportunity to put the matter right.

The tribunals were there exclusively to protect computer conduct. If a company was prevented from registering it could appeal to the tribunal, but if users believed that a company was restrictive because of its behaviour or conduct, they would not appeal to the tribunal. Labour MPs would like to see something more comprehensive, more positive and better, which included a major departure from the usual way of doing things, a code of codes of practice which were legally enforceable.

Another departure was the substitution of a registrar - a single individual - for the recommendation of an independent data protection agency. Labour MPs would be fascinated to know what sort of individual the Government had in mind to perform the task of registration.

Was it to be someone who knew about the law who would deal with the legal side, or who knew about computer technology and understood the technical side, or would it be somebody who would have supreme authority over these matters?

An individual, rather than a professional agency, had one great defect. An individual appointed by the Government would not be able to stand up to the Government in the way that a data protection agency would. The Government ought to realize that the Act must provide protection for the individual against the Government.

The Home Secretary's record on private information as he advocated the proposals in this Bill and as he continued to support amendments on house of Lords and Criminal Evidence Bill was that he showed a reckless disregard for the privacy of other people's confidential information and a determination to keep the Government's record on private information as low as possible.

Labour believed the balance ought to be struck differently. The individual needed protecting in two ways. First, private information relevant to the public ought to be protected against the state; second, information possessed by the state which might be detrimental to the individual ought to be made available to that individual. Clear and distinct provisions of Part 2 and 3 if a minister specified that they were

Hattersley: More positive

except for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Labour MPs, too, believed in the protection of national security. But, surely, not everybody believes that a minister had only to say "national security" to justify practices over which there was no check or redress and for which no democratic House ought to give blanket approval.

The Bill gave the minister no guidance as to how national security was to be safeguarded or defined. It would therefore place no limit on the minister's personal judgment when exercising his powers in these matters.

The contents of Clause 28 were even more unacceptable. It provided general exclusions for protection in stipulated circumstances.

There was a fear among doctors that Clause 28, covering crime, taxation and immigration control, and removing some information from protection, combined with the objectionable clause covering such matters in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill would deeply undermine the relationship between doctor and patient. It was impossible to link the two clauses.

Government provided in compensation could be used by another Government department. That was unacceptable. Although the Bill did not compel information to be passed on in that way, he suspected that it would encourage that to happen.

Confidential records could be used by the Government in pursuance of its unhealthy obsession with illegal immigration.

Far from protecting data, the Bill made its misuse easier. The Bill was inadequate and if it could not be improved in these respects, the Opposition would change its position from abstention to opposition at a third reading.

Sir Edward Gardner (South Fyfe, C) said he was anxious about housing association rented dwellings for each one sold under the Bill must leave the Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, said when moving the second reading of the Housing and Building Control Bill which has passed the House of Commons.

This would be a big increase in the number of people who would be able to buy a house. Their needs are in danger of being met by just eight per cent of the houses built, when Clause 2 has been deleted.

Clause 2, providing for the enforced sale of charitable housing associations, was a shabby, wretched and unwelcome addition to the Bill.

Lord Jones of Chesham (L) said the clause would introduce great uncertainty and insecurity into housing associations as to whether their grants would have retrospective effect. It would create inequality between tenants, often in the same property and diminish the housing available at lowest cost.

The Earl of Selkirk (C) asked whether the Government was wise to amend a large number of provisions that some had claimed. Every council tenant who could get even the most modest mortgage was now being given the right to start on the home ownership ladder.

Lord Jones of Chesham (L) said the Bill introduced a disappointing amendment following soon after the 1980 Housing Act. This second attempt at housing legislation should surely have provided some help to council housing and construction programs.

With 366,000 unemployed construction workers, surplus building materials and growing housing shortage, the Bill served only to compound the irrelevance of many of the 1980 measures.

Although there were well over 100,000 council house sales each year, the Government was coming back with a Bill designed to squeeze every last drop out of the right to buy. Few proposals in recent legislation had aroused such a flood of protest as Clause 2, which had been introduced in the Housing Act 1980 Act to confer the right to buy on certain council tenants of charitable housing associations.

Minister defends Government record on arts spending

THE ARTS

Government spending on the arts, representing 0.3 per cent of total Government spending was very good, considering the present difficult economic situation, Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts, said during a question time in the Commons last night.

Mr Dennis Cusack (Great Britain, Lab): Total government spending on the arts (a miserable pittance) would be even less but for the fact that many local authorities, particularly those that are Labour-controlled, are trying their best to give more financial circumstances to give more support for the arts.

"Will the Minister try to ensure that local authorities are given more encouragement in this regard, so that more money can be used to support the arts, particularly for the participation of young people?"

Mr Channon: I do not accept the first part of the question. Considering the difficult economic situation, the amount provided by the Government for the arts is very good. In percentage terms, the amount spent by this Government is similar to that spent by the last Labour Government.

Mr Toby Jessel (Richmond upon Thames, Twickenham, C): How big was the increase in the total arts budget, and within that the Arts Council budget which comprises the biggest component of the whole arts budget? How big was it in percentage terms?

Mr Channon: The total out-turn for 1981-82 for central Government expenditure was £195m and the estimated figure for 1983-84 is £231m. Considering the economic difficulties, the increase in the arts budget will be widely welcomed by those interested in the arts in and out of the House of Commons.

Mr Channon: That is something that is continually being reviewed by the Arts Council and more money is going to the regions, and this House, generally shares that view.

question, it has long been the tradition of governments of both political persuasions that we believe in the arm's length principle and that governments do not intervene in the way the Arts Council allocates the money.

Mr Clement Freud (Isle of Ely, L): Since the minister is satisfied with the level of salary expenditure, might he consider investing in some marketing men for the Arts Council?

Mr Channon: That is something the Arts Council themselves have a valuable point.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selly Oak, C): If they did a marketing survey, they would find that the reason the arts need more and more subsidies is that they keep on putting on more plays or music or art exhibitions that the people they are meant for do not want.

Mr Channon: That is a one-sided point of view. Audiences in theatres and all sorts of other performing arts are going up continuously. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. It is right that the Arts Council should be master in its own house when it comes to deciding which form of art to subsidize in which way.

There is a case for looking at the imbalance between what the centre and what some of the regions receive.

Mr Channon: That is something that is continually being reviewed by the Arts Council and more money is going to the regions, and this House, generally shares that view.

Peers anxious over sale of association homes

HOUSE OF LORDS

In this Parliament the Government had provided almost 50 additional housing association rented dwellings for each one sold under the Bill must leave the Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, said when moving the second reading of the Housing and Building Control Bill which has passed the House of Commons.

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Reassurance on lead in vegetables

POLLUTION

Lead pollution of vegetables was by no means proven, Lord Skelmersdale, a Government spokesman, said in the House of Lords yesterday.

He said the value of Colnley, for the Opposition, that home grown vegetables formed only a small proportion of the diet of the average Briton. Research had shown that most of the lead in their diet came from food which was not home-grown, produce the total intake of lead from food was well within the limits set by the World Health Organization.

There were stringent regulations about the lead content of vegetables and other food offered for sale which applied for the major part of the produce.

Lord Skelmersdale said this was an unnecessary government report of the environmental pollution with great care. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had two research projects in hand on the uptake of lead in vegetables from lead in the air. This showed that the Government took the matter seriously.

No debate on CAB cash

HOUSE OF COMMONS

The bureau provided magnificent national service and last year had handled more than five million cases at an interest of 500,000 over the previous year.

The three complaints from the minister had been carefully examined and found to be groundless. One concerned Mrs J. R. Huddell, the chairperson of CND. She had never taken time from her work through her involvement with CND and she had the full support of her colleagues nationally and locally.

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How parties choose their candidates: 2

Dangers to Alliance of democratic system

It also says: "In order to help strive for a commonly high standard of approved candidates, the candidates' committee shall, after consultation with regional parties, lay down the ground rules for candidate approval and have responsibility for final approval of members and conveners of regional interviewing panels as nominated by regional parties."

Selection itself is done by an association's executive committee or a selection committee working on names submitted by the candidates' committee "or by any member of the association."

The selection committee then submits the names of three or more approved candidates to a general meeting of the association, although the candidates' committee may approve a shorter short list if there are not enough "suitable" candidates.

The constitution then says: "The general meeting, after hearing and questioning each of the proposed candidates, shall, if it thinks fit, select one as its prospective parliamentary candidate in secret ballot by the alternative vote."

It also lays down that every potential candidate must "make a full declaration of financial and business interests".

The remaining problem for the Alliance is that where both parties have duly selected candidates, those candidates are constitutionally entitled to stand for their constituency, as in the case of Liverpool, Bowdler, where Mr Richard Crawshaw, the SDP MP for Liverpool, Toxteth, and Mr Richard Pine, a Liberal city councillor, have been selected. However, they have not expressed their intention, with local party support, to stand against each other.

Tomorrow: The Labour Party

Doctors drop action to block Data Protection Bill

Doctors have dropped their threat to block the progress of the Government's Data Protection Bill on the ground that it fails to cover non-computerized records.

The British Medical Association, which has a strong lobby among MPs, had threatened the Bill's provisions as a "non-sense", as they would not afford protection for the vast majority of medical records stored on manual filing systems.

The Bill, which had its second reading in the Commons yesterday, is designed to protect individuals against the misuse of personal data stored on computers.

But yesterday the BMA said that during the Bill's passage through the Lords it had decided to concentrate on removing defects in the proposals as they stood, rather than try to widen them still further.

A BMA spokesman said: "This Bill is at best neutral, and at worst positively harmful. We do not wish therefore to extend what is inadequate legislation to cover all medical records."

Instead the BMA will concentrate its opposition on the Bill's provision which allows medical information stored on computers to be secretly disclosed for its use as evidence in criminal prevention actions.

"A patient's notes could be transferred to the police by a third person without either the patient's or the doctor's knowledge or consent. The information might then be held indefinitely."

The Bill, which will enable the Government to ratify the European convention that protects citizens against abuses in the storage of personal data on computers, is the first step in this country towards a privacy law.

First, it sets up a new, Crown-appointed post of Registrar, who will with small staff will have the job of enforcing the new laws and their principles.

More teachers despite fewer pupils

Despite an unprecedented drop in the number of pupils, the Inner London Education Authority has this year increased its staff to its highest total ever.

Secondary schools numbers fell by more than 6 per cent between 1982 and 1983 and primary numbers by nearly 3 per cent, yet the authority's total staff increased by less than 1 per cent. But in a newspaper circulated to all inner London homes this week, the authority promises that more staff will be employed during the year.

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POWER ASSISTED STEERING		O	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
LAMINATED WINDSHIELD		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
STEERING COLUMN LOCK		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
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Courtauld Institute art collections may go on show at Somerset House

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

The important art collections of the Courtauld Institute could be on show to the public in the Fine Rooms at Somerset House, in the Strand, in London in two years as a result of an agreement in principle between the Government and London University.

For two years, Professor Peter Lasko, director of the institute, has been trying to persuade the Government to make Somerset House, built in 1776-1778, available. Negotiations with the Department of the Environment are at an advanced stage.

Professor Randolph Quirk, Vice-Chancellor of London University, of which the Courtauld Institute is part, said yesterday that after many years of trying to unite the art collections and the teaching institute under one roof, the plan was "excitingly within reach".

It is estimated that the cost of adapting the north block of Somerset House, facing the Strand, will be at least £3m. The institute will be launching a public appeal "with the dual objective of creating an outstanding new public art gallery in London and ensuring that the teaching of art history and the enjoyment of works of art can take place in one building".

The Courtauld Institute, which celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year, has Samuel Courtauld's famous collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, and several other collections, including the Thomas-Gambier-Parry, the Roger Fry, and the Princess Gate collection bequeathed by Count Antoine Seilern.

Recently a collection of nineteenth and twentieth-century paintings and sculpture was given by Lillian Browne.

At present only about 40 per cent of the works can be shown at the galleries in Woburn Square, and the move to Somerset House will enable 80 to 90 per cent of the works to go on show, according to Professor Lasko.

When Somerset House was acquired by the Government from the Crown it was designated for government offices, so legislation will be needed to enable the Government to grant a lease for its use as a teaching institute and art gallery.

Bank union becomes militant on technology

From Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter, Blackpool

In a sharp move to the left the 152,000-member Banking, Insurance and Finance Union yesterday decided to take a far more militant stand over new technology.

Members will be urged to resist the introduction of any new machinery where no technology agreements exist between the union and management. That means that staff would take industrial action and refuse to operate the equipment.

The motion was passed overwhelmingly at the union's annual delegate conference in Blackpool against the advice of the executive, who felt that there would be some grass roots resistance to the action. An attempt to remit it to the national executive was heavily defeated.

Moving the resolution, Mr David Thomas, from Lancaster, said that existing job security agreements were insufficient to protect members. There were no guarantees over job content or the speed with which new processes were to be introduced. There was only one agreement in existence, which was at the Cooperative Bank.

Mr Thomas said: "We are not opposed to new technology in the long term, we merely wish to have some say about its introduction. The point of the motion was not to deplore the implementation of new technology."

But Mr Anthony Knowles, of the national executive, said action to block equipment would require a ballot, "and in any case of our members support the introduction of new machinery."

Mr Terence Molloy, deputy general secretary, thought that the debate was the most important of the conference. "New technology is the greatest challenge we face, not just for BIFU but for the whole of the trade union movement."

He said that the policy of the union was to support new technology, but only if it was implemented via a new agreement.

"We are facing an unemployment figure of four million," he said. "New technology means that jobs are in danger on banking, building societies, insurance and finance."

He quoted a study which predicted that the English clearing banks face a 12 per cent reduction in manpower by 1990. "Let no member be under any illusion. Their jobs and their prospects are under threat," he said.

Crowd force Princess to abandon walkabout

From Grant Forbes, PA Court Correspondent, Brisbane

A Royal walkabout in Brisbane last night was cut drastically yesterday when a fearfully large crowd nearly mobbed the Princess of Wales in their frantic enthusiasm.

The walkabout, through the heart of the city, was to have lasted more than an hour, but as hysterical masses moved in the Princess, the Prince of Wales and their advisers decided to make a dash for the safety of the City Hall.

Young children in the very front of the crowd, which was in places 20 deep, seemed in danger of being crushed and the Prince and Princess realized that this was to be no ordinary walkabout.

A senior Australian policeman described the walkabout in the 86 degree heat as "hellish".

The Princess arrived at the City Hall for an official welcome with sweat pouring down her face and obviously shattered by the emotion of the occasion.

She was rushed to a cool, private room to recover.

The crowd's enthusiasm did not diminish even when the royal couple were safely inside City Hall. A balcony appearance by the Princess and Prince brought hysterical screams. As the royal visitors left the balcony after the three-minute appearance the Prince put his arm comfortingly round his wife's waist.

Teacher jailed for affair with girl of 13

A teacher of religious education was sent to prison yesterday after admitting having an affair with a girl aged 13. They had sexual intercourse in his car and at his home while his wife was at work, Stafford Crown Court was told.

The girl's mother became suspicious after discovering a torn-up letter from the teacher to his girl. When confronted by the police, Steven Green aged 29, admitted the relationship. He said he was in love with the girl, who was described in court as physically and sexually mature.

Green, of Aldridge, West Midlands, was jailed for a total of 18 months, nine of them suspended, after pleading guilty to three charges of having unlawful sexual intercourse with the girl.

Mr Christopher Hotten, for the prosecution, said the offences represented a serious breach of trust. The relationship began soon after Christmas, 1981. Green played basketball with a group of boys and girls. Eventually the numbers taking part dwindled until only Green and the girl remained.

Gradually a degree of intimacy occurred either in Green's car or at his home when his wife was out at work. Intercourse first took place at his home during the summer holidays.

When seen by the police Green said: "I have lost everything, my profession, my wife and my home. I believe she knows what love is, I certainly do."

Mr Peter Stretton, for the defence, said: "This was a deeply emotional matter rather than a casual sex. This was a case of genuine affection which arose between these two people of different ages. It is a fact of life that from time to time such relationships do occur and they are sometimes very profound."

Mr Stretton added: "What he has lost by these activities has been considerable and will be a lasting punishment upon him."

Judge Garrard told Green: "You said in your statement that society would not understand. You are right, they would not."

Signalman was drunk, court told

From Our Correspondent, Exeter

A signalman who drank too much on his birthday arrived drunk on duty and fell asleep on his signal box, causing chaos on the Paddington to Penzance line, Callington magistrates in Devon, were told yesterday.

Eventually, after five trains were delayed for 37 minutes, a driver reached the signal box and found Leo Morris sprawled unconscious in his chair. Mr Reginald Peck, for British Transport Police, told the court.

After failing to rouse him, the driver called the police and an ambulance. When the police arrived he tried to operate the signal levers but was so unsteady on his feet that the officers arrested him.

Morris, who admitted being drunk on duty, said that he had had too much to drink. "I had a fall off my pushbike."

Mr Cecil Stoneman, chairman of the bench adjourned the hearing until May 9, pending a social inquiry report. He said: "We have in mind a custodial sentence."



Crowded out: On the fourth week of their tour, the Prince and Princess of Wales had another massive welcome in Brisbane.

Hawke rebuke on RAAF dam flights

From Tony Dubouin, Melbourne

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, gave an assurance last night that the armed forces would not be used again in the Tasmanian dam controversy, and is believed to have reprimanded Mr Gordon Scholes, the Defence Minister, for allowing an RAAF aircraft to be used for dam surveillance.

Mr Robin Gray, the Tasmanian premier, had officially protested to the Federal Government over the use of an RAAF aircraft to photograph work on the Gordon-below-Franklin dam in the southwest wilderness area of the state.

Mr Gray said that the flight of an RAAF Mirage fighter over the area last week was an entirely wrong, provocative and overbearing use of the defence forces. The flight had been ordered by the Federal Attorney General's department and an RAAF spokesman confirmed that it was a photographic mission on a task assigned to flight crews. Photographs were taken of the dam site.

"This is the first time ever such a thing has happened in Australia," Mr Gray said. He said it was "incredible" that Mr

Honours list on way out

The Federal Government has abolished the British-based honours system and will no longer nominate Australians for awards. The Australian honours system, the Order of Australia, instituted under the last Labour government, will continue.

However, the two states ruled by Liberal-National Party governments will continue to nominate people for British awards. The Labour state governments have already scrapped the imperial honours system.

The announcement yesterday was no surprise as the abolition of the honours system has been Labour Party policy for some time.

Hawke had apparently sent the RAAF on a "U-2 type spy mission."

Yesterday Senator Gareth Evans, the Attorney General, said that the reason that the RAAF had been used was to avoid any confrontation with Tasmanian police. He also

disclosed that Federal police had been sent over the area in a chartered light aircraft.

He said that the RAAF had been used because the area was hard to get to and because Mr Gray had threatened to use state police to block ground access to the dam site.

Mr Gray said that Mr Hawke had been invited five times to visit the wilderness zone, listed by the World Heritage Commission as one of the last remaining temperate wilderness areas in the world, but had refused. He said that the state government would have provided light aircraft or helicopters for Mr Hawke's visit but the Prime Minister preferred to use the RAAF for political purposes to try to get information to use against Tasmania.

Mr Hawke has offered the union movement the prospect that the national economic summit, which opened in Parliament House in Canberra yesterday, would agree to return to centralized wage fixing in an effort to increase the summit's chances of reaching a consensus on economic direction for Australia.

The Government also unveiled proposals for a prices surveillance authority to accompany any limiting of wage increases.

Opening the summit, consisting of 98 delegates and 230 observers, yesterday morning, Mr Hawke said "decisions that are going to achieve our great national objectives cannot be made in isolation from economic and social realities".

The purpose of the conference was "to expose us all, including those with direct responsibility for Government decision-making to those realities".

Mr Hawke said that representatives of the Australian people were meeting at a time of Australia's greatest economic crisis in 50 years. He said he believed the conference had a part to play not only in the urgent and immediate task of achieving national economic recovery but in laying the foundations for Australia's future.

The morning session was taken up by set-piece speeches by Mr Hawke, Mr Neville Wran, the New South Wales Premier, and representatives of the trade union movement, industry and business.

'Mr Clean' can veto improper appointments

By Peter Hemmsey

In career terms Mr Dennis Trevelyan has gone from one extreme to another. For five years his job was to keep people in, 45,000 of them to be precise, the residents of HM Prisons in England and Wales. Three weeks ago he became First Civil Service Commissioner responsible to the Queen and the Privy Council for keeping unqualified, politically appointed persons out of Whitehall.

Although only a deputy secretary in the Management and Personnel Office, he can, technically, go over the heads of his boss, Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, and Sir Robert's boss, the Prime Minister, and protest to the sovereign if he believes patronage of the early nineteenth century variety is once more rearing its corrupt head.

His singular power derives from successive orders in council, the first of 1855 vintage, the most recent a 1982 formulation. It was a distant ancestor, Sir Charles Trevelyan, who, with Sir Stafford Northcote produced the famous report of 1853 which recommended that the Civil Service be cleaned up through a system of appointments based purely on merit as demonstrated in competitive examination.

The job of the 1983 model Trevelyan is to make sure that Whitehall stays clean. Nobody can take up a permanent post in the executive grades or higher



Mr Dennis Trevelyan: Holds the trump cards.

Matters could get tricky, however, if heads of Whitehall departments were appointed from partisan outsiders. Almost by definition that kind of permanent secretary could not be temporary brought in under Section 1 (2) (c), although some permanent secretaries, such as Professor Terence Burns, Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury, are temporary civil servants.

What could Mr Trevelyan do if the nineteenth-century settlement, the branchchild of his ancestor, seemed under threat? The pattern of escalation would probably proceed as follows.

First he would confide his fears to Sir Robert Armstrong. Depending on the level at which the "improper" appointment was to take place, he would talk to the minister and the permanent secretary in the affected department. If no notice was taken, he would cite his order in council and stress his independence. If propriety still did not prevail, he would blow the whistle by making his concern public.

The view in Whitehall is that matters would get no farther than the private chat stage. Virtue would triumph without the need for publicity. With characteristic Whitehall understatement one insider said "The Queen would be slightly surprised" if Mr Trevelyan sought an audience waving his order in council. But, as trump cards go, the monarch is pretty unbeatable.

Palace on December 22, does contain a passage which should allow a future prime minister sufficient leeway to recruit sympathetic outsiders on a temporary basis without precipitating a constitutional crisis.

Section 1 (2) (c) states that Mr Trevelyan's certificate will not be needed "in respect of appointments such that the period for which the situation is said to be held thereunder by the person appointed terminates at the end of an administrative term".

'Kafkaesque defence' at plot trial

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The Spanish Supreme Court has 10 working days from today in which to deliver its sentences after the appeals ended yesterday of those accused of plotting and staging the military coup attempt in February, 1981.

It was "positively Kafkaesque" for the defence to dispute whether an attempted coup had occurred when millions of Spaniards had heard the assault on Parliament as it happened, the prosecution declared in its final submissions yesterday.

The seven civilian judges, who have been hearing an appeal for the first time in this country against a court-martial, can either increase the sentences as the prosecution has demanded, reduce them, or order a retrial. Counsel for General Alfonso Armada, said by the prosecution to have been the "political head" of the coup, has demanded an acquittal alleging lack of proof.

Within 20 days of the Supreme Court giving its verdict, defence lawyers can still appeal to the Constitutional Court.

Resentment against Delhi grows

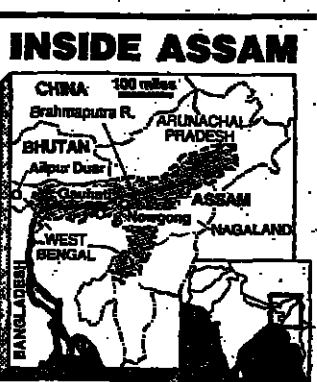
In his second and final article on the recent violence in Assam, KULDIP NAYAR, a leading Indian journalist and correspondent of The Times in India since 1969, analyses the worsening relations between native Assamese and immigrant Bengalis.

"Three hundred thousand people remain homeless in Assam after the terrible eruption of election violence. Most are in camps dependent on meagre Government rations and private donations, which are rapidly drying up.

Corrupt politicians, with the help of contractors, are making money out of supplies and services to the camps.

Most of the refugees are reluctant to return to their home areas. They want assurances of police protection. The Muslims would prefer to be guarded by the Delhi-controlled paramilitary Central Reserve Police because the Assam police are suspect in their eyes.

When you talk to the Assamese you find that their anger against the central Government has increased. So too has their resentment towards the Bengalis, the migrants whose swelling numbers stoked up tensions over the years in Assam. "We are not against the Bengalis", the Assamese insist, but the re-



Part 2

lationship between the two communities has become merely formal. They seldom meet socially.

Most Bengalis, Hindus as well as Muslims, continue to believe that the student-led movement to oust what the Assamese call "foreigners" is aimed at them.

"The state is burning", Mr Hiteswar Saikia, the Chief Minister, says. "There is need for cooperation by all sides."

"There can be no peace so long as there is an unrepresentative government", according to Mr Bhriku Kumar Phukan, secretary of the All-Assam Students Union, one of the groups leading the agitation.

Less than 2 per cent of Assamese voted in the February election, and it seems that suspension of the new state Assembly, if not its dissolution, will be the first demand if and when the agitators resume talks with the government in Delhi.

The anti-migrants movement still commands the same respect that I saw at the beginning of the agitation in early 1981. When Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, arrived recently the leading agitators called for a blackout of the town.

Not even a candle flickered. The street lights went out as the Assamese power station workers responded to the call. The Prime Minister did not address any public meetings, and security was very tight.

The new state Government is completely alienated from the people. Its very existence is resented.

The students themselves have suspended their agitation for the time being, and that has helped to improve the situation. But what worries people in the Government and in the student movement itself is that some of the more moderate student leaders were detained in January and February, and extremists gained credibility.

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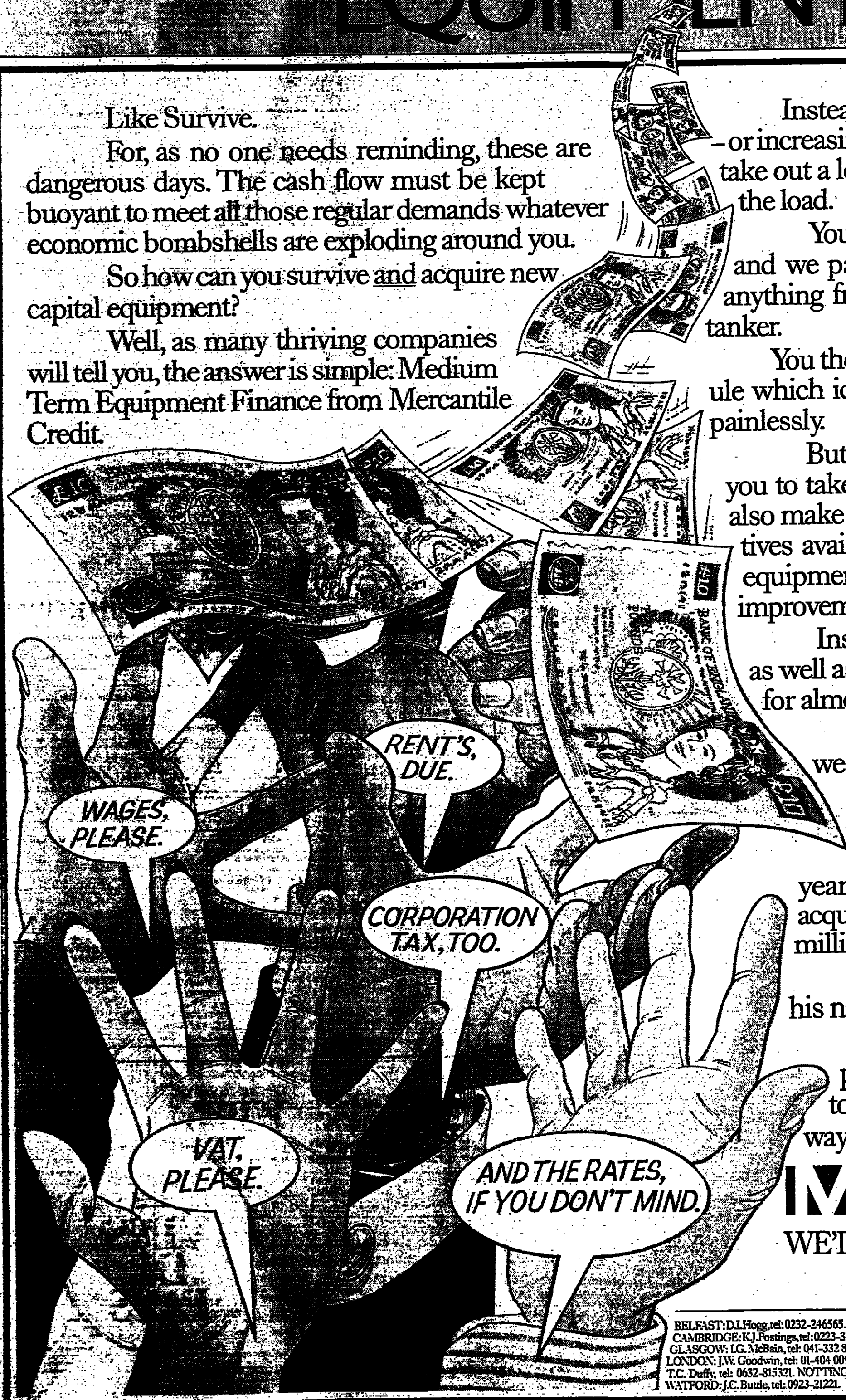
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Diplomatic crisis returns to the Middle East; Moscow steps up anti-Zionism drive; Gulf War flares again

Arafat facing ominous future with Syria in control of the PLO

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, was flying to Sweden last night on an unofficial visit with his guerrilla movement divided as never before...

The Syrians, who have campaigned for so long to destroy the Reagan plan, were exultant at Syria's prediction of the failure of American and Zionist plans to rule over the Arab nation and strike at the central Arab cause...

have afforded history a kinder interpretation of the Jordanian monarch than he is now likely to receive. Not that Mr Arafat will want to abandon him. The King is still Mr Arafat's only conduit to the Israelis and at the Arab summit due in a week's time, the PLO leader will no doubt praise King Hussein's efforts...



Setback for President: Mr Reagan explains to White House reporters the failure of his Middle East peace plan while Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, looks on.

Jordan tries to avert an open break

Bahrain (Reuters) - Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization said yesterday that they would maintain normal relations, in what appeared to be an attempt to prevent an outright split between King Hussein and the PLO.

In Cairo there was no immediate comment on the Jordanian move from Egyptian officials, but Western diplomats said the move was seen as a personal affront to President Mubarak, who has been publicly saying that peace prospects might recede unless the PLO and Jordan accepted the Reagan initiative.

Israel had known all along that nothing would come of the negotiations. Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's envoy, arrived in Israel on Sunday night, for talks with officials. It was pointed out that his return had been scheduled before the decision by the Jordanian Government.

gested that the worrying situation in the Middle East "may be partially remedied by dialogues such as we are starting today". The symposium, has been organized as part of the official dialogue between the European Community and the League of Arab States.

Campaign puts Soviet Jews in fear

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Soviet Jews are worried by a growing anti-Zionist campaign, which they fear heralds a new wave of officially-inspired anti-Semitism.

The campaign is being spearheaded by General David Dragunsky, a veteran of the Second World War who is himself Jewish. He has made several television appearances to assail Zionism in powerful language.

Last week General Dragunsky appeared on television with two other Soviet Jewish figures, Academician Martin Sabukhnik and Professor Samuel Zivich, to launch an "Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet People".

There have also been increasingly vehement condemnations in the Soviet press of Israeli policy in Lebanon and repeated warnings of an impending Israeli attack on Syria.

Sharon pays private call on Haddad

From Christopher Walker, Metula

Reserve General Ariel Sharon, the controversial former Israeli Defence Minister yesterday paid his first visit to Israeli-occupied Lebanon since his demotion two months ago to Minister without Portfolio after the severe criticism of his conduct by the Kanan Commission into the Beirut massacre.

Transported in a military helicopter, the former defence chief held private talks with Major Saad Haddad, the Israeli-backed Christian militia leader, whose future role is the main obstacle to agreement with Lebanon on troop withdrawal.

The unexpected trip was seen in political circles as a determined attempt by Mr Sharon to demonstrate that he is still a power inside the government at a time when negotiations with Lebanon are reaching a critical stage.

Although Mr Sharon has said remarkably little in public since his demotion, he is reported to have become increasingly critical in private of some of the moves made by his successor Mr Moshe Arens. Mr Sharon has remained a firm advocate of Israel's hard line against American pressure for compromise over the long drawn out withdrawal negotiations which continued yesterday in the Israeli resort of Netanya.

Yesterday's occasion was a remarkably low-key affair. No advance warning was given by the Government of Mr Sharon's helicopter tour, and senior Israeli officers based inside Lebanon were at a loss to explain why he should have been returning across the border at the present time.

Beyond confirming that Mr Sharon had met Major Haddad at his house in Marjayoun, a military spokesman based in Metula refused to provide any further details about the trip, which is believed to have included meetings with senior Israeli officers based in Lebanon where they are facing a dangerous upsurge of guerrilla attacks.

By coincidence, Mr Sharon's arrival in the border zone came less than 24 hours after the highest number of attacks against Israeli targets mounted on a single day for several months. In six separate incidents on Sunday, one Israeli soldier was killed and three others injured.

The ambushes continued unabated yesterday when another Israeli soldier was wounded after his armoured personnel carrier ran over a land mine planted in the eastern sector. Military sources claimed later that the mine had been planted by Palestinian guerrillas operating from behind Syrian lines where a total of 7,000 Palestinians are now estimated to be dug in alongside Syrian troops.

Andropov gets some American fan mail

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Pravda gave extracts from letters which it said Mr Yuri Andropov had received from American citizens in praise of Soviet policies, and published a photograph of some of them to prove they were authentic.

The paper first dipped into Mr Andropov's mailbag in February, when it quoted from letters sent from the United States criticizing President Reagan's arms build-up and calling for peace with Russia.

North Carolina, had favoured a reduced American arms budget provided Russia ceased its "support for the Afghan people against counter-revolutionary intervention". Mr Tom Bell from Washington thought that pro-Soviet Cuba was "too close to the United States".

Dioxin company defended by Swiss minister

Berne (Reuters) - Switzerland yesterday defended the chemical firm of Hoffmann-La Roche against allegations that it had concealed information from the West German Government on the whereabouts of two tonnes of highly-toxic dioxin waste.

French ease tourist restrictions

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The Government has made important concessions over its planned restrictions on foreign travel by French tourists after talks with travel agents who had claimed that thousands of their jobs were threatened. Pre-paid package holidays are no longer to be subject to any cost limit.

with no limit on cost, provided those holidays were advertised before March 25, and still be entitled to take with them 250 francs per person over the age of nine and 1,000 francs for each younger child, plus a further 1,000 francs in French currency per person. The cost of air fares or other travel was not to be included in the limit.

IRA threat to British festival

From Christopher Thomas, New York

An extraordinary festival of British culture - dance, theatre, sport, art and music - opens officially in New York tomorrow and will continue throughout the summer.

Seven die in fighting at squatters' camp

Cape Town (Reuters) - Seven people died in factional fighting between rival groups in a black squatters' camp outside Cape Town on Sunday, police said yesterday. Another 26 were injured, some seriously.

JOHANNESBURG: More than 500 black miners who refused to go underground against uranium mine where 18 workers were killed on Friday have been sent back to their tribal homelands, the company said yesterday, AP reports.

Oxfam aid gets through

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Reassurances about the distribution of aid in the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia has come from Oxfam, who have had a senior official in the region for the last four weeks.

Iran claims victory in big Gulf offensive

Bahrain (Reuters) - Iran, launching a new offensive in its Gulf war with Iraq, said yesterday it had recaptured a large area of Iranian territory and killed or wounded 3,000 Iraqi soldiers.

Oil slick closes water plant

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia ordered the temporary closure of a desalination plant drawing water from the Gulf yesterday as an oil slick from damaged Iranian oilwells approached the Saudi coast, Reuters reports.

Town under the hammer

Mary Kathleen (Reuters) - A week-long auction of the uranium mining town of Mary Kathleen in the Australian outback began with two churches, bus shelters and a supermarket, all iron-framed, up for sale.

Soviet sacking

Moscow (AFP) - Mr Vladimir Lomopossov, president of the Soviet state labour and social affairs committee, has been dismissed and replaced by Mr Yuri Batalin.

First black

Hairre (Reuters) - The Zimbabwe Government appointed Mr Charles Uete as the country's first black Secretary to the Cabinet, the top civil service job.

Corsica blasts

Ajaccio (AP) - Seven explosions destroyed holiday homes in Corsica, owned by residents of Paris and in one case West Germany, since April. There have been 25 such attacks, blamed on separatists seeking to end French rule.

Top-level team to see Sultan

Lord Belstead, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, flies to Brunei with a full team of officials on Thursday, for a weekend of talks over the oil-rich sultanate's forthcoming independence. Henry Stanhope writes.

Relations between the two countries were "pretty good", they said. Mr Watson had returned only because he had completed four and a half years' service there.

13 technicians held hostage

Algiers (AFP) - Thirteen foreign technicians, two of them Britains, employed by a West German geophysical prospecting firm have been held prisoner by Algerian workers on a site in southern Algeria since Monday.

Peking calls back editors

Peking (AFP) - A group of Chinese editors cut short a study tour of the United States and returned to Peking after China's suspension of all sports and cultural exchanges with the United States.

Big US guns reach front

Bangkok (Reuters) - Two C5 Galaxy aircraft loaded with eight 155mm howitzers landed in Bangkok after a non-stop flight from the United States. It was the second shipment of American weapons to arrive on Thailand's request.

Town under the hammer

Mary Kathleen (Reuters) - A week-long auction of the uranium mining town of Mary Kathleen in the Australian outback began with two churches, bus shelters and a supermarket, all iron-framed, up for sale.

Lippizaner 2

Graz (Reuters) - Austria's Agriculture Minister Herr Günther Haider disclosed plans to set up a second farm to breed Lippizaner horses to reduce the danger of virus infections.

Novosti's chief

Moscow (AP) - Mr Pavel Naumov, aged 63, becomes head of the semi-official Soviet news agency Novosti. Previously deputy head, he replaces Mr Lev Tolstunov, who was appointed Editor-in-Chief of Izvestia in February.

First black

Hairre (Reuters) - The Zimbabwe Government appointed Mr Charles Uete as the country's first black Secretary to the Cabinet, the top civil service job.

Corsica blasts

Ajaccio (AP) - Seven explosions destroyed holiday homes in Corsica, owned by residents of Paris and in one case West Germany, since April. There have been 25 such attacks, blamed on separatists seeking to end French rule.

Coal line

Peking (Reuters) - China is planning a 420-mile pipeline to transport coal from Inner Mongolia where Occidental, the United States energy group, is to build a new mine.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: "مركزنا من الامم"

Polish Government takes steps to control impact of Pope's visit

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish Government's deep anxiety about the possibility of pro-Solidarity demonstrations and social unrest during the Pope's visit to Poland in June has become clear in its negotiations with the Catholic Church.

The church, though it will continue to press for a general amnesty for those arrested under martial law, appears to be reconciled to more piecemeal concessions before the Pope arrives. Officials hint that the process of granting clemency on an individual basis to some imprisoned Solidarity activists may be speeded up.

They are also suggesting that the Government is ready to allow the establishment of a Nuncio in Warsaw, though the church would prefer to wait and see how successfully the Pope's trip is managed before committing itself to such an upgrading of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and a communist country.

Even so, the planning of the trip is notable for its attempts to cushion the Pope from the

masses. He will be based in the Jasna Gora monastery in Czestechowa for four days, and will fly by helicopter to other cities, thereby reducing the need for public car journeys.

There is little stress on open-air masses - probably only one will be staged - and television planners are hoping to give the visit broader coverage than in 1979, to reduce the number of people on the streets. Some factories will have television monitors, again with the idea of keeping down the crowds.

These elaborate precautions serve the joint purpose of increasing crowd control, ensuring that crowds do not become demonstrations, and improving the personal security of the Pope.

Any meeting with Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of Solidarity, would almost certainly be in private, as a joint public appearance would be socially explosive.

A meeting with General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, is

envisaged early in the tour, and it is understood that Archbishop Luigi Poggi, a Vatican expert on East European affairs, has been consulted on the protocol of the talks.

Church sources emphasize, however, that the visit has not been neutered in the negotiations. The Pope has scope in his sermons to criticize the status quo in Poland. Moreover, the church has won the important concession of a visit to Poznan on or around the anniversary of the 1956 workers' riots.

A trip is also planned to a miners' shrine in Silesia, where prayers are likely to be said for the miners shot by militiamen in clashes at the Wajtek colliery soon after the declaration of martial law in December, 1981.

Officials seem adamant that martial law will not be lifted (it is only suspended at present) before the Pope's visit.

Activist on trial: Mr Edmund Balukawa, a prominent Solidarity activist in Szczecina went on trial before a military

court in Bydgoszcz yesterday. In February the European Parliament's Socialist group appealed for his release, after reports that he had begun a hunger strike. He is charged with advocating the overthrow of the socialist system and the withdrawal of Poland from the Warsaw Pact.

Popular complaints: Mr Albin Siwak, regarded as a dogmatic Marxist within the Polish Politburo, yesterday called for tough controls on managers, chairmen of factories and high officials, and admitted that he had received many complaints from ordinary working people.

"They often report to me facts which are reminiscent of Wild West films or scenes from the Middle Ages. I find it deplorable that the majority of these complaints turns out to be true."

Mr Siwak, who was writing in the daily *Trybuna Ludu*, is in charge of the complaints department of the Communist Party Central Committee.



Over and out: Enrique Vera, a *Banderillero*, coming to grief while trying to plant his barbed darts in the bull's neck during a bullfight at Castellón, eastern Spain, on Sunday. He was taken to hospital with minor injuries.

Afghanistan negotiators show mood of optimism

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

In an atmosphere of determined optimism, two weeks of discussions on resolving the Afghanistan problem began at the Palais des Nations in Geneva yesterday, with the UN special representative, Señor Diego Cordóvez, acting as intermediary between Afghan and Pakistani delegations headed by their respective foreign ministers.

Mr Yaqub Khan, the Pakistan Foreign Minister, whose delegation went first to talk with Señor Cordóvez, said that whatever the difficulties, which could not be underestimated, the meetings should be "conducted in a positive spirit as a constructive endeavour to try to achieve some progress".

Since the previous round, last June, it had been possible to go gradually into greater detail as an approach to the substance of the problem. His Afghan counterpart, Mr Mohamed Dost, whose delegation went to the same room later to confer with the UN representative, declined to comment.

Señor Cordóvez has indicated that, as before, he is keeping the Iranians and the Russians informed of any significant development - though Afghan resistance leaders maintain, of course, that without direct involvement of either Soviet or resistance representatives, the discussions are unrealistic.

For his part, Señor Cordóvez speaks with assurance about "a convergence of determination to reach a comprehensive settlement". This, he says, is being shown by all governments concerned, without exception.

Poll rebuff for Nakasone policies

Tokyo (Reuters) - Leaders of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) admitted yesterday that its defeat in two key local elections amounted to a severe rebuff for Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, and his policies.

Mr Nakasone, criticized by left-wing opponents for his hardline defence stand, said of the results from the two areas considered particularly vital in the voting for local bodies across the country: "I sincerely accept the realities and will pull myself together".

He indicated that the results had sharply reduced the chances of a general election in June. He told reporters: "Lower House members should in principle complete their terms. I'm not thinking of a dissolution".

The four-year term of the Lower House is not due to end until June 1984 and an early poll had been predicted if the LDP did well in key areas. Instead, a Socialist was elected Governor in Hokkaido prefecture in northern Japan to end 24 years of conservative rule, while a Socialist-Communist candi-

date became Governor of Fukuoka in the south where the LDP had reigned for 16 years.

Mr Takao Fujimami, the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, said the LDP accepted the outcome as a stern criticism of the Administration.

Mr Takeo Fukuda, the former Prime Minister, who is a strong critic of Mr Nakasone within the party, called the results utterly unexpected.

"Both the Government and the Liberal Democratic Party should humbly reflect on them", he said.



Imee Marcos: Secret marriage after eloping

Manila's worst-kept secret out

From David Watts, Manila

Imee, the eldest daughter of President and Mrs Imelda Marcos, has given birth to a son in Hawaii and Manila's worst kept secret is out.

For months Imee's pregnancy has been the capital's hottest gossip in a city where the "First Family" dominates all the media.

But not a word of the impending confinement in the seclusion of a friend's house near Diamond Head has leaked into the newspapers or on to Manila's television stations. Imee's controversial marriage to a divorced basketball coach, Tommy Manotoc, a year ago is too recent for that. Mr Manotoc was formerly married to a beauty queen.

Mr Marcos had always had great marriage ambitions for the beautiful and talented Imee which were shattered when she eloped with Mr Manotoc to the United States and married him secretly.

The elopement was short lived but not Mrs Marcos's opposition to the marriage. Not long afterwards Mr Manotoc was mysteriously kidnapped and disappeared for six weeks. He reappeared equally mysteriously after allegedly being rescued by the army.

The Marcos "family" have never publicly acknowledged the marriage, not least because Mrs Marcos, had other ambitions for Imee but also relatives of Mr Manotoc in the United States are leading anti-Marcos movements.

The Marcos' first grandchild weighed in at 6lb 8oz and is in good health. All Manila now waits to see if Mrs Marcos will fly to Honolulu to see the child. In public, at least, the two women have lately appeared to be on better terms.

Greenland vote may alter relations with Brussels

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Greenland's 32,000 electorate votes today in local elections, the result of which could affect the current delicate negotiations in Brussels on the territory's withdrawal from the EEC.

The elections are only the second in the vast icebound island since it achieved home rule under the Danish crown in 1979 and the first since Greenland narrowly voted to leave the EEC in a referendum last year.

Recently revised electoral laws make the outcome of the elections hard to predict, but the ruling moderate leftist anti-EEC Siumut party of Mr Johathan Motzfeldt, current chairman of the local Greenland Landsting (parliament) in the capital Godthaab is expected to lose ground to the opposition rightist and pro-Market Atassut party, paving the way for a minority administration.

The possibilities are wide. The two main parties could combine, or either of them could

ally with the leftist Inuit (Eskimo) party. There is also a "wild card" - an independent rightist candidate standing for the 1,200 newly-enfranchised Danes working at US military bases on Greenland. In the 26-seat Landsting one vote could make all the difference.

There is nonetheless broad political consensus in Greenland to seek an OLT (Overseas Lands and Territories) associate arrangement with the EEC, using the island's considerable offshore fish resources as a lever in negotiations with Brussels for withdrawal from the EEC by January 1, 1984.

West German trawlers currently fish some 16,000 tonnes of cod out of a total annual catch around 60,000 tonnes of the species off east and west Greenland, where French fishermen also take sizeable shrimp catches.

Greenland, which first became a Danish colony in 1721, originally joined the EEC along with Denmark in 1973.

Athens says yes, but... to EEC proposals

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The Greek Government told the European Commission yesterday that it was encouraged by its proposals for helping Greece to overcome the difficulties involved in community membership. It asked however, for further consultations to clarify some points.

The Greek reaction, described by experts as a qualified "yes", was communicated to Mr Richard Burke, the European Commissioner in charge of the memorandum, submitted by Greece last year, who visited Athens briefly yesterday.

After a meeting with Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, and his prin-

pal ministers, Mr Burke said at a press conference: "I am reasonably optimistic. The ministers gave me the impression that they were happy with the response given to the memorandum."

President Karamanlis, who is the architect of Greece's accession to the EEC made one of his rare press statements after receiving Mr Burke.

"The Commissioner's proposals are inspired by goodwill", he added, "and show understanding for the problems of the Greek economy. I believe the European Council will adopt them and improve them as suggested."

S Africa: Barbara Hogan

By Caroline Moorehead

A South African postgraduate student who helped to organize trade unions for black workers is serving a 10-year prison sentence. Since her arrest, Barbara Hogan, aged 31, has alleged that she was beaten up by security police. Two officers have been tried for assault, but acquitted after the magistrate ruled that her word alone was not enough to convict them.

On October 21, 1982, the Rand Supreme Court in Johannesburg sentenced Miss Hogan for treason. She had admitted to belonging to the banned African National Congress (ANC), but denied being a member of its military wing, or having taken part in violent activities. In the past, only members of this wing, Spear of the Nation, have been charged with treason and convicted.

Before her arrest, however,



Miss Hogan: Actions seen as treason



Miss Hogan had worked for the South African Institute of Race Relations, and had helped to arrange boycotts by the black community of companies involved in industrial disputes. The court was therefore able to declare that, since she was also a member of ANC, her activities had in effect furthered the organization's aims, one of which, the Government says, is to bring about the violent overthrow of the state. Though her offence was admitted to be "of rather a technical nature" her actions were judged as treasonable.

Since being taken into detention, Miss Hogan has spent some time in solitary confinement. A district surgeon called in to examine her at the time of her trial, has reported the presence of injuries he did not believe could have been self-inflicted.

Finns begin the search for new coalition

From Our Correspondent, Helsinki

Finland's centre-left coalition, led by Mr Kalevi Sorsa, resigned yesterday and talks began on forming a new Government following the recent general election.

President Koivisto started the process by asking Mr Erkki Pystynen, the new Speaker of the Eduskunta, Finland's unicameral parliament, to find out what kind of a coalition is feasible.

Mr Pystynen, a conservative, is not, however, a Prime Minister-designate, who will be named after preliminary soundings are completed.

Mr Sorsa is the strongest candidate to succeed himself in the post of Prime Minister and the new coalition will almost certainly include the present coalition partners; Mr Sorsa's Social Democrats the Centre Party and the Swedish Peoples Party.

These three parties made gains in the elections last month. The Communists, who have been the fourth regular partner for more than a decade, lost heavily. Their internal quarrels are worse than ever and are likely to keep them in opposition. The party may split into two before the summer.

All important political leaders emphasize the need to form a broadly based coalition.



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SPECTRUM



The rain is advancing in cold, violent gusts, hiding the hills and reducing visibility to almost nothing as we pick our way along the narrow high-banked Devon lanes. Somewhere east of Okehampton we are halted by a tar-laying machine occupying the entire width of the road; retracing our steps and taking a still more circuitous route, we arrive only a few minutes late at one of those medium-sized Victorian gothic piles that look as though they were always intended to end their days as preparatory schools or convalescent homes.



Somewhere east of Okehampton, John Young finds a farm where children can muck out the stables, feed the ducks and forget television



Imagine that the state looks after them, or should do.

Where city and country meet

In fact, Nethercott House is nothing of the sort: it is the headquarters of a unique project to bring children from what are conventionally known as deprived inner city areas into contact with rural life, encompassed not in picture postcards from the National Trust but in a muddy and frequently malodorous working farm. Farms for City Children was founded eight years ago by Michael Morpurgo, a one-time Sandhurst graduate, army officer and later teacher in Kent, who has since learned to farm and earns a partial living as a writer of children's books (his latest, *War Horses*, was runner up for this year's Whitbread prize). He and his wife, Clare, who was also trained as a teacher, had for some time cherished the idea of a project which would give urban children some understanding of what was for most of them a foreign country, inhabited by aliens. The opportunity to realise their ambition arrived

providentially when their Land Rover got stuck in a ditch and had to be rescued by a tractor belonging to a local farmer, John Ward. Casual acquaintance quickly blossomed into a business relationship. The Morpurgos, who had bought some land adjoining the Wards' farm, offered to make it available for extra grazing if, in return, John and his sons, David and Graham, would agree to groups of noisyurchins trailing after them as they milked the cows and made the hay. If they needed any further convincing that their dreams and destiny were in tune, Nethercott House itself came on to the market. "Originally we had intended to find somewhere nearer London and take children on a daily basis," Michael recalls. "But now we were able to offer them accommodation for a whole week at a time." By the time we have finished lunch, the rain has cleared and the third year pupils of

the English Martyrs Roman Catholic primary school in Walworth, south east London, are ready for their daily round of farm tasks. Mary Paterson, one of the three teachers accompanying them, is on her twelfth visit. Asked if she sometimes feels more like a farmer than a teacher, she replies feelingly, "I wish I was." Not all of them feel the same way. The Morpurgos have unhappy memories of "stropky" teachers who, in Michael's words, "did nothing but lean on their spades and complain." "I used to dread confronting teachers who were not prepared to cooperate or to keep the children in order," Clare confesses. "But now it doesn't worry me in the slightest. In any case most of the schools come back each year, and we've had the chance to sort out the ones we don't want and tell them politely that they're not welcome." The 40 or so children have been split into three or four groups, and about a

dozen of them make their way down a muddy lane to the dairy, carrying pails and scrubbing brushes. Work in the dairy is accompanied by loud and spontaneous singing of "Daisy, Daisy", presumably in tribute to one of the cows, and "Old MacDonald's Farm." Clare intersperses the work with little lectures. The male donkey has been gelded so he cannot give his companion any more babies. One of the hens has a bald spot on its back where it has been attacked by the others, the penalty of being bottom of the pecking order. A bright red comb indicates when a bird is laying eggs. Each week of hard, healthy work costs a child's parents, or in some cases the local education authority, £45. The Inner London authority has strongly supported the scheme, and most schools taking part are from London or Birmingham. "It is quite different from the usual sort of school outing to Butlin's or the Isle of Wight," Michael emphasises. "The children come

here to work and to learn, and sometimes at first it's quite difficult for them to understand this." Nethercott takes about 1,000 children a year, but the £45,000 or so they provide in income falls well short of the estimated running cost of at least £65,000. Some schools have been active in raising funds, and a Birmingham headmaster recently earned £600 by undertaking a sponsored walk from his school to the village of Iddesleigh, about a mile from Nethercott. Other aid has come from a variety of charities and from the BBC, Capital Radio and Sotheby's. There have been occasional groups of handicapped children which were, according to Michael, "a marvellous success. The kids were such fun. The ironic thing is that if we were catering just for handicapped children, we would have no difficulty raising funds. But when most of the time we're dealing with just ordinary children, people tend to shrug their shoulders, and

Next morning the sun is shining between scudding black clouds as we set off in gumboots across the muddy slopes to bring supplementary visitors to the cows in a steep distant field. Mary O'Sullivan, the school's headmistress, cheerfully bumping a sack of hay, says that on her first visit four years ago the Nethercott scheme was seen as a one-week experience, soon to be forgotten. Now it is integrated into a whole programme of environmental studies, each independent with the others. The children's enthusiasm is astonishing. They haven't watched television all week and, do you know, no one has ever once mentioned it. Back in the main house, Lorraine Boyle, aged 10, produces her diary: "On Monday we stayed in and made the beds and swept the yard and took the horses down to the field and fed the ducks, chickens and cockerels and took the donkeys down to the field and cleared out the horses' stables and fed them and stayed in that night and had a rest. It was good that day."

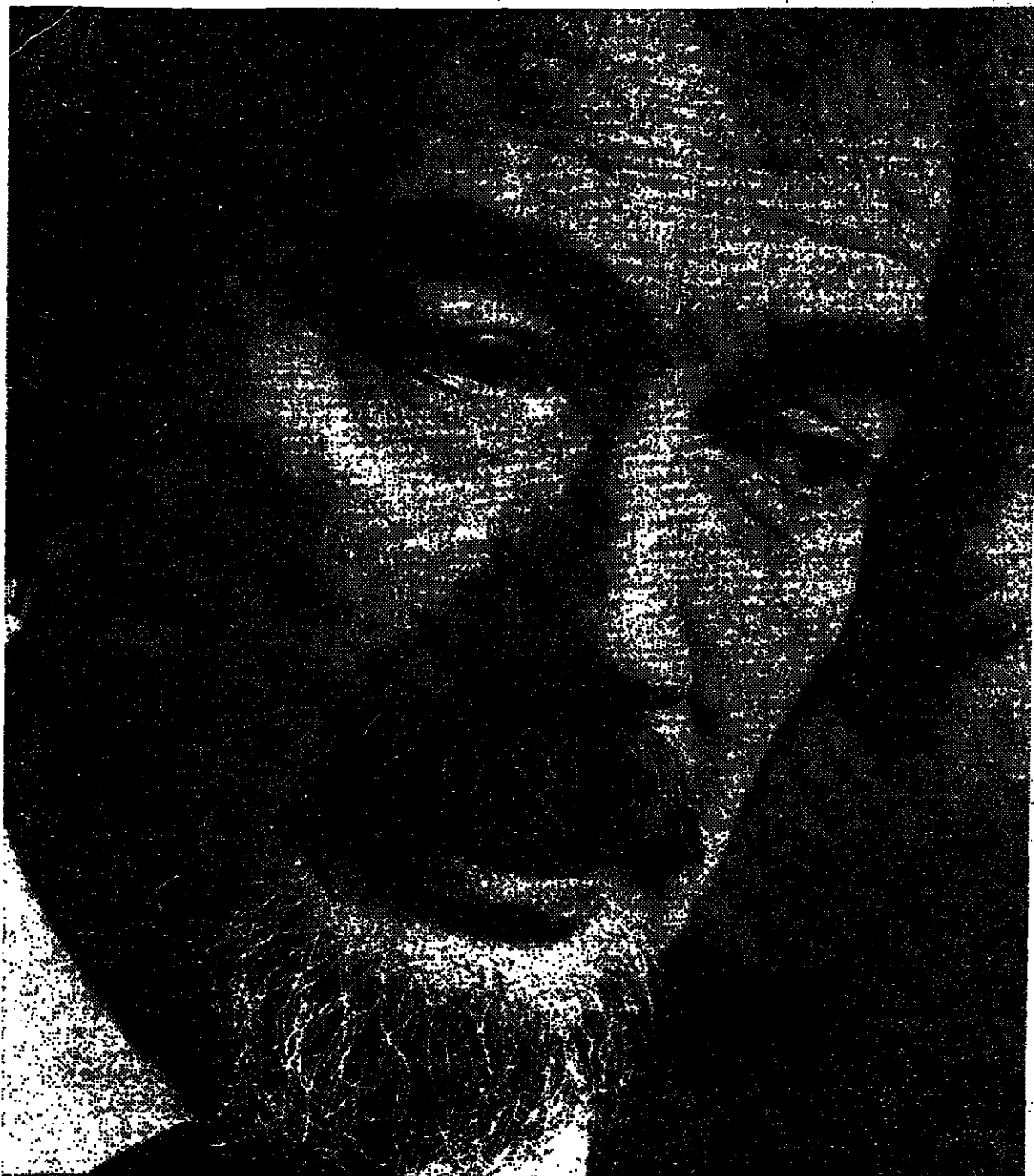
In Tom Stonier's post-industrial future, surplus wealth will be distributed by a system of negative income tax

Visions of a world gone sane

By Neil Lyndon

Professor Tom Stonier might say of himself the words with which Saul Bellow's Herzog was introduced: "If I'm out of my mind, it's all right with me." Stonier and the fictional Herzog share many similarities: both are American Jews, academics, vague in manner and disordered with possessions but possessed by a mania to impose a compensating order. Both are voluble, even garrulous, endlessly inventive and always losing points of order, departure and conclusion in cascades of parentheses and by-the-ways. Tough cities of the north engage the affections of both: Herzog's Chicago is Stonier's Bradford, where he is Professor of Science and Society. But where Herzog sailed in circles on a personal odyssey of introspection and self-examination, Stonier has embarked upon a voyage of discovery into seas of cosmological knowledge; and he has addressed his mind to, among other topics, the future of civilization, the economic development of the West, the end of all war, the substitution of natural energy sources for mineral fuels, and the growth of cancer cells in plants. Like one of Les Dawson's characters, Stonier can be imagined appearing on *Mastermind* and giving his chosen subject as "The Universe and all its contents". On his new book, *The Wealth of Information*, he says: "It is an effort to kill off economic superstition and an attempt to focus a national discussion on the means to get out of the present economic mess, using post-industrial thinking." Stonier's book takes its title and a part of its intellectual direction from Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations*, acting as a complementary voice to that key work of economic description and applying some of its methods, if not its terms, to the present day. Stonier says that where Smith wrote, in 1776, at the decisive moment of transition in Britain from an agrarian to an industrial society, we find ourselves today at an analogous point of transition from an industrial to a post-industrial society. In that post-industrial society, he says, information

is the decisive commodity, displacing "land, labour and capital as the most important input into modern productive systems." Stonier acknowledges no need - as in the models of the left - for the protection by tariff of Britain's heavy industries: "Let steel go, let automobiles go," he declares. The developing countries of the world should, he says, be the suppliers of industrial production to such post-industrial societies as Britain. At the same time, Stonier antagonizes the Thatcherites in reversing the dictum of Adam Smith that the interference of government inhibits the growth of wealth: government in a post-industrial society, Stonier says, is not to be seen as a consumer of wealth but as the key force for investment in the knowledge industries which create wealth. As might be expected of a university professor, especially one faced, as Stonier is, with the closure of his department following government spending cuts, he thinks that the expansion of the higher education system is essential to Britain's transition to a post-industrial economy; and that spending on universities should not be considered philanthropic but directly productive of wealth. What does he mean when he says that information is wealth? A vast and messy multitude of things, apparently. The information which creates a robot which, in turn, performs a productive task is wealth. The computer systems which maintain the electronic flow of credit are a form of wealth. The silicon-chip technology by which a desert can be irrigated and made to bloom is a form of wealth: "Wealth," he says, "is created when a non-resource is converted into a resource as a result of applying information." The man who has taken on and contradicted all the leading contemporary theories of economic management is not, by early training, an economist (and thus he appears shaky on some elements of classical economics, such as prices). Now 56, he took his university education, at Drew and Yale, in microbiology. During the late 1950s and the



Information, Professor Stonier says, is the means by which to regenerate Britain's prosperity

1960s, he applied his scientific knowledge to the effects of radiation and fall-out from nuclear explosions and was a leading member of a group of American scientists who publicized these effects and campaigned against the testing of nuclear weapons. From 1971-1975 he was Director of Peace Studies at Manhattan College, where he developed his view that war between developed post-industrial societies is "an institution on the demise". A kind of personal terror seems to inspire Tom Stonier to wish to become intellectual master of all the world's territories of knowledge. It is the fear that if he cannot understand the world, it will run madly into chaos and holocaust. He acknowledges that the mainspring of this terror and of his compensating desire for omniscience is likely to have been his early childhood experiences of running, as a refugee, from Nazi Germany, from which his family fled in 1936, first to Holland and then to New York. Stonier's father was unusual among the Jews of Hamburg, he says, for seeing plainly that Hitler's attitudes towards the Jews must lead to their destruction; and thus he affirms his debt to his father for a fixed belief that understanding

and foresight are weapons and tools by which catastrophes may be averted. "If you know enough," says Stonier, "you can alter the path of human development." This axiom, among others, places Tom Stonier as a Utopian of the old European schools, one who believes that social ills may not be intrinsic to human life but may be alleviated by applied reason and understanding. For instance, he supposes that the ancient antagonism of the people of Northern Ireland would soon evaporate if the proper order of post-industrial investment was made there - in education, in the new information industries, in the use of natural sources of energy, in agriculture and in fish-farming. In his book, he succinctly derides such a futile and cost-inefficient investment in conventional industry as De Lorean Motor Cars, showing how the £67m invested there to provide 2,000 jobs might, applied to the education system, create 10 times that level of employment. On this issue he speaks from a firm platform of direct personal knowledge: in Bradford, traditionally one of the industrial powerhouses of Britain, the largest employer today is the council, closely followed by the university.

Economists of all conventional schools - Keynesians and monetarists alike - might say that a society so lopsided as Bradford in its bias towards services unproductive of materials and commodities (wealth as it has been known) cannot stand. Stonier would answer that they have failed to grasp a cardinal shift in the economy. "Within 30 years," he says, "it will take no more than 10 per cent of the labour force to produce all of society's material needs - all food, clothing, textiles, furniture, appliances, automobiles, housing, et cetera." At the end of our conversation, as at the end of his new book, Tom Stonier spoke of further visions which he blurred with an embarrassed reticence, lest he be thought a crank or crackpot: a vision, for example, of a post-industrial society so wealthy that it can, like Alaska in 1980, afford a negative income-tax and distribute surplus revenues in cash to its citizens. "I believe that we are witnessing the beginnings of a process as profound as the origin of life itself," he says. If Tom Stonier is out of his mind, it seems to be all right with him; and he certainly does not seem to be harming anybody else. But what if he is right?

MORFOVER... Miles Kingston

Keeping life's great goal in view



Hello, Phil Marsh here. The Reverend Phil Marsh, Football Adviser to the Church of England. Yes, Fund-raising Phil. I'm here today to make an appeal on behalf of this week's good cause. I wonder if you can guess what that is? Do you know what needs support more desperately than anything else in British life today? That's right, British football. Once upon a time, football was the most popular leisure activity in Britain, after religion. Every week twenty million people would turn up at Old Trafford, and that was just on the days when Manchester United were playing away. But now football ranks 39th in the list of British sports, lower even than stamp collecting, lawn-mower racing and budgie-baiting. This can't be right. And now things may be even worse, if football disappears from television. In future you may switch on for the match of the day to find yourself watching basketball on ice from Stockholm or underwater surfing from Australia. This can't be right, either. One of our basic human rights, along with the right to strike and the right to waste time in the last five minutes, is the right to switch on the television at any time of night or day and see a man called Brian saying: "More football after the break." We at the Church of England Home for Distressed Footballers have already seen the effect on young players. There are young men here who have decided to devote the best years of their life, between 19 and 21, to the game they love, and are still earning less than a million pounds a year. This tragedy can't be right. I especially remember one young man who arrived last month, discarded by his team simply because he wasn't playing well enough. I bade him welcome. He responded by aiming a vicious kick at my shins. Later, he explained his action thus: "Sorry, Rev. I thought you were going to retaliate." Luckily I was an old enough hand to see this coming, and managed to scythe him down before he could get me. This young man is now in hospital, where we can look after him. But for this sort of work we need money, and that is why we are asking each of you to send a million pounds to help British football. There are some people who say that British football is too far gone, and that we now have to pray for its soul. But believe me, we have tried that all this season. And now England does not have a single team left in European competitions. What God is telling us, I think, is to roll down our socks and get really stuck in. This must be right, surely. We in the Church of England are especially aware of football's plight, as religion itself used to be Britain's top leisure activity and we are now even lower down the list than football. We need even more money than football, if that is possible. In fact, religion will be next week's good cause and I'll be back then to tell you more about this wonderful pastime. Meanwhile, though, all we ask for football is a million pounds each. It isn't much, but of their life, between 19 and 21, it's a start.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No. 36)

ACROSS
1 Incidental remarks (6)
5 Seabird (4)
8 Insect (5)
9 Interior (7)
11 Openly (8)
13 Actor's part (4)
15 Watertight enclosure (9)
17 Shoe fastener (4)
19 Geological balance (8)
22 More vacant (7)
23 Sum (5)
24 Eyelid infection (4)
25 Greek paper (6)

DOWN
2 Indian title (5)
3 Father (3)
4 Garment support (8,5)
6 Location (4)
7 Unchanging (7)
10 Fiasco (5)
12 Pitcher (4)
14 News (4)
16 Likelihood (4)
18 Pilot's place (7)
19 Sour fruit (4)
17 Series of events (5)
20 Sacrificial plover (5)
21 Drink (4)
23 Knock (4)

SOLUTION TO No 35
ACROSS: 1 Unconfirmed 9 Indulge 10 Taste 11 Ash 12 Arm 16 Part 17 Virile 18 Inset 20 Fern 21 Stucco 22 Uppas 23 Gail 25 Mow 28 Liba 29 Amongst 30 Precipitate
DOWN: 2 Nadir 3 Only 4 Flea 5 Ruth 6 Enanare 7 Hilariously 8 Retransmit 12 Solace 14 Ova 15 Write 19 Chamber 20 Fog 24 Angst 25 Marc 26 Wasp 27 Foot

مركزنا من الرابح

FASHION by Suzy Menkes

THE OTHER CHIC

The recent fashion collections offer fascinating new evidence for the theory that there is a correlation between the hemline and the economy.

In Robert Beckman's newly published book *The Downward* (Milestone Publications £7.95), the economist elaborates on the idea that louché and provocative fashions (low necklines and thigh-high skirts) reflect expanding economies and that a downturn reduces this "erotic capital", sending hemlines modestly downwards and necklines to Puritan heights. The "hemline indicator" has been traced back over a span of 200 years.

But there is now no single fashion style. The wide divergence in skirt lengths between the different fashion capitals which I discussed last summer was even more marked for the autumn season. In particular, the French, to the surprise of the fashion world, almost unanimously dropped their hemlines to mid-calf. This fall (in contrast to the short, sexy clothes currently in the French shops) occurred in the same week that President Mitterrand was putting a metaphorical corner on the economy. The expansive socialist programme of spending was at an end and so was the short-lived mood for sexually titillating fashion.

Meanwhile, back in Britain, the London designers, equally unanimously, raised their hemlines. Economists can work out a suitable scenario for Britain's future performance...



"We are united by colour," says painter and weaver Kaffie Fassett of the two artist friends who share his exhibition opening in Covent Garden today.

Kaffie Fassett is best known for his knits - rainbows of colour that clothe the famous, like Lauren Bacall, Ali McGraw and John Schlesinger, and also inspire more earth-bound knitters to experiment with pattern and colour.

The magic carpet coats and jackets - all designed for both sexes - form the core of the selling exhibition, but Kaffie Fassett's rich patterns and colours are also on show in his paintings and needlepoint. Alongside are Richard Womersley's densely-textured rugs and blankets and luminous photographs by Steve Lovi, many of them still lifes of Kaffie's work.

The three artists work together and "spark each other off," says Fassett who came to London from Big Sur, California in the 1960s. The exhibition has been mounted by Hugh Ehrman who has worked with Kaffie Fassett to produce tapestry kits and more recently knitting packs, both of which will be on sale to encourage the rest of us to emulate the artists. Kaffie Fassett at Seven Dials Gallery, 56 Earlham Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 until April 23 (closed Sundays).

It started as a brief homage to Noel Coward. Now the selection of chic silk dressing gowns that Simpson, Piccadilly, put on sale beside a video recording of the recent television documentary, have proved a West End sell-out. Any man who fancies a slither of wrap-around silk or an elegant towelling robe (in a selection of fruit sorbet colours at £60) will find the ground floor of the store stamped with Coward's fashion trademark.

The simple, tailored dressing gown, so difficult to find in frillier female lingerie departments, is an all-British fashion story, and I suspect that many of Simpson's customers will consider it too good to be left to the man.

Imaginative cotton weaves, richly coloured wools, luxuriously patterned textures and boldly decorated knits were all on display last week at Fabrice, the annual British fabric fair now in its fifth year.

New this season was a special stand devoted to the imaginative work of four young designers, all award winners in the Royal Society of Arts Design Business. Julia Witney's collection of cotton weaves with a slightly worn effect was given the main award. The 23-year-old textile designer used particular inspiration as she followed the brief to create fabrics that could be made by a small production unit - such as she herself hopes to become when she leaves Brighton polytechnic this year.



Left Sunshine separates. Silver grey linen sleeveless top £45, slim half-lined skirt £59. Also in peach, rose pink, pale blue and honey beige from Roland Klein, 26 Brook Street W1. Harvey Nichols and Ambers of Amersham. Skirt also Suzanne, Cobham. Earrings by Monty Don for Roland Klein. Silver, blue and black triple chain belt, £15, and metal twist bangles £4 each, by Sheila Teague from Detail, Endell Street, WC2; mail order from Sheila Teague, 45/46 Charlotte Road, EC2. White and black Chanel-style sling-backs £32 from Hobbies, 47 South Molton Street W1, 84 Kings Road SW3, 8 Hampstead High Street, NW3.



Above left: The basic suit. In grey and black stripe linen and silk mix with long collarless jacket and mid-calf button-through skirt (or alternative skirt to the knee). Price £169. Black and white spotted silk fly front top £59. All from Roland Klein Brook Street W1, Taylor and Hadlow, Beauchamp Place, SW3, Ambers, Amersham, Frazers, Glasgow. Silver and black anodised aluminium earrings £17.25 and twisted metal bangles, £4 each, by Sheila Teague from Detail, Endell Street WC2. Silver grey tights by Elbeo. Punched leather slip-ons by Orizzle £18 in white, black, and red from Way in at Harrods, Harvey Nichols, Chelsea Cobbler, 54 King's Road SW3 and selected branches of Rayne.

Above right: Black and white graphic check tunic and black pants (or with alternative straight skirt) £149 from Roland Klein, 26 Brook Street, W1, Taylor and Hadlow, Beauchamp Place, SW3, Ambers, Amersham, Frazers, Glasgow. Pearl and crystal necklace by Monty Don for Roland Klein. Sparkle bar brooch by Corcoran. Earrings by Butler and Wilson. Black satin evening shoes with bow ties £95 from Manolo Blahnik, 49/51 Old Church Street, London SW3.

Below: Grey and black pure silk dress with long sleeves and soft waist, £195 in various colours. From Roland Klein, 26 Brook Street, W1, Selfridges, W1, Harvey Nichols SW1, Suzanne, Cobham, Surrey and Ambers, Amersham.

Bucks. Striped silk and linen jacket as suit above. Black silk boater by Viv Knowland £49 from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge. Black multi-chain belt and silvered earrings by Sheila Teague from Detail, Endell Street, WC2; mail order from 45/46 Charlotte Road, EC2. Bone tights by Elbeo. Spotted shoes with ankle ties by Camille Unglik from Rayne 66 New Bond Street, W1, Harrods, Harvey Nichols and selected branches of Rayne.

Hair by Clifford Brake for Michaeljohn. Make-up by Clifford Brake for Charles of the Ritz

Photographs by John Swanne!!

Roland Klein: a French background and a feel for fashion

Best shop assistant in town



Roland Klein plays with his collection like a child with a Rubik cube. Nimble fingers work skirts, suits, jackets, dresses in ever-changing combinations.

"Everything goes with anything," he says. "I work from piece to piece and from season to season to build up a wardrobe. It all follows on."

Almost every working day of the year, Roland Klein practices his skills at putting clothes together by serving in his small London shop, where uninitiated customers must think that they have stumbled by chance on the best sales assistant in town. He says that it is his way of going direct to his public where "they can see the way I am thinking and the way I like to work." He also, he admits, actually enjoys fitting clothes to customer and has a feel for fashion that may come partly from his native French background. It is also the fruit of years of quiet apprenticeship before he emerged ten years ago with his own label and more recently with his own shop.

"Being French, one has one's feet on the ground," he explains in his Gallic lilt untouched by years in England. "A French woman only buys a colour and a line that lasts from one season to the next. We are practical, careful about money. The French are a solid people."

Roland Klein also had a solid fashion training at a classic couture school in Paris, where the star pupil of the previous year was the young Yves Saint Laurent and his contemporaries were Jean-Louis Scherrer and Tan Giudicelli.

Klein went on to work in haute couture in the tailoring room at Dior and for three years at Jean Paulou, where he was assistant to Karl Lagerfeld. "He was wonderful to work with," says Klein. "He is a very nice person, and also an artist, interested in everything, mad about opera, music and painting. I learned a lot from him."

To understand Roland Klein's clothes, you must look neither for flamboyant statements of style, nor for the rather English decorations of sweet fills. I see in his harmony of line, cut and proportion an

elegance which springs from the couture training of 20 years ago. His new autumn collection, enthusiastically received a month ago, is based on just one simple theme - the blouson - and on a quiet colour palette of cream and grey. His current collection is played out in shades of grey, black and white, using stripes and spots as the only patterns, so that literally every item you see in the picture slots in with something else, according to your own taste and style.

"My target customer is a business woman who works and travels, who has children and takes holidays," he explains. "She takes a lot of care choosing her clothes, but when she puts them on she forgets about them. I hate clothes that are fussy or don't hold together properly when you move or bend down."

His collection comes into that vanishing category of clothes that are properly made and finished in good fabrics, and in a price bracket that is halfway between high fashion and high street. The entire spring wardrobe photographed on this page adds up to just under £700, with the average outfit around £150 (or less if you choose the man-made alternatives to pure silk).

The clothes are made by his parent company, Marcel Fenez, whom he joined when the "swinging sixties" acted as a fashion magnet drawing him to London. It is just ten years since the company's founder, Marcel Fenez, had the foresight to give Roland Klein his own label, thus preventing the usual flight of a strong designer to set up on his own. The shop in Brook Street was opened two years ago as part of the process of bringing the designer out of the shadows.

Now the shop has some star-studded customers (including the Princess of Wales, although Klein is too discreet to mention her). But he has the same zeal to communicate his clothes to customers in the Roland Klein boutiques at Harrods and Harvey Nichols, where he personally trains the staff and explains the clothes to them.

I told Roland Klein that his seminars of style were too good to give away. So he has decided to combine his own plan of a customer show with a fashion workshop in which he will explain how his clothes work together. I said that I would challenge all my readers who doubt that modern fashion can ever be for them, to come and see him in action. The shows will be on Thursday

April 21 (details below) with myself in the role of introducer and observer. They will take place not in a grand hotel ballroom, but in the Marcel Fenez showroom, for Roland Klein's philosophy is that clothes are made to be worn, not for a fashion extravaganza.

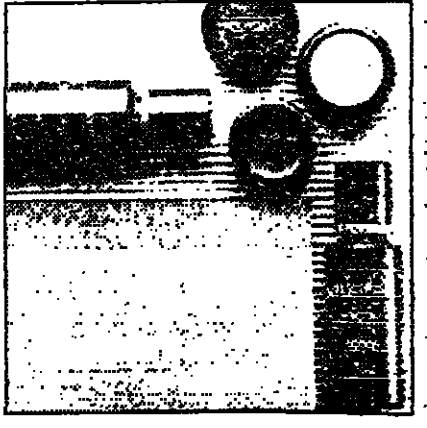
"I don't make clothes for the catwalk and I don't even think that they should be worn exactly as they are shown," he says. "I suppose that my ideal customer would be a career woman of some personality who puts her own stamp on my clothes." He himself personifies this quiet elegance with his neatly clipped moustache and well-brushed shoes at the extremities and a smart collar, pearl grey tie, simple black cotton sweater and Prince of Wales check trousers in between.

His Parisian contemporaries are now part of massive and money-spinning fashion empires with licensing arrangements round the world and their labels on everything from umbrellas to undies. By contrast, Roland Klein, although his clothes sell well throughout Britain and abroad, lives modestly. His elegant house in Kensington is decorated with the exquisite good taste that first brought him the attention of Karl Lagerfeld (Klein did the workroom decor for a party at Patou and was made design assistant on the strength of it).

The home buyer at Harvey Nichols was so impressed by Klein's sense of style that she asked him to design a range of bed linen (including a chic striped dressing robe) that is now on sale nationwide. He is working on other design projects, and I would not underestimate the chances of this discreet Frenchman, still only 44, having his elegant signature on boxes of shoes (or even boxes of chocolates) before the eighties are much older.

Roland Klein fashion shows and style seminars on April 21 at 11.00 am and 3.00 pm at 26 Bruton Place, W1. Tickets £7.50 from 26, Brook Street, London W1.

Tomorrow:
Wednesday Page
Luring ways with
trout; Penny Perrick's
Connemara Diary



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Lebanon: Robert Fisk reports on the chilling parallels with Vietnam

Geoffrey Smith

When will the Israelis go?

Why June looks the best bet

THE TIMES DIARY

The Third Greene

Those who watched Graham Greene's 'J'accuse' programme on BBC 2 over Easter may wonder at the way the writer has sought publicity in the case of the French mafia, when before he has shunned it.

Herbert then presented the Daily Mail with a pile of Graham's boyhood diaries and letters, including a poem about how he disliked kissing his aunts.

Turf accountant

Like Corbiere, Simon Cawkwell, an accountant and keen punter, is known to his friends as Corky. He also shares with the eight-year-old chestnut gelding the distinction of having won at Aintree on Saturday.

Flying colours

The National Horseracing Museum find they have backed a useful couple of winners too. The museum's editor, Patricia Connor, and designer, Ivor Heath, have just carried off the European Exhibition of the Year award in Milan for their work on The Vikings in England exhibition, which was staged in Denmark in 1981 and York in 1982.

Nuclear threshold

The Royal Institute of British Architects is to stage a formal debate tonight on the motion: "This time the British nuclear deterrent is a prudent precaution".

Unfair dinkum

Spare a thought for Patrick Cauling, author of The Experiment. In Australia recently for the National Graphical Magazine and the Daily Telegraph, he was exploring the outbreak when a dingo bit him in the behind, leaving a 10-inch scar.

Tropical crush

Mrs PHS is newly returned from Barbados, where she has been refurbishing her golden suntan in preparation for the launch this month of a book she has written.

Draining more cash for the farmers

Tomorrow, Lord Beaumont of Whitley will be on his feet in the upper house to try to set in motion a little-known parliamentary procedure to halt the Severn Trent Water Authority's attempt to spend £6.4m on lowering the watercourse of the River Soar in Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire.

Dangerous sports

The Dangerous Sports Club's award-winning ski race down the Black Slalom course at St Moritz is safely over. Tommy Leigh-Pemberton, son of the governor-designate of the Bank of England, completed the course in a supermarket trolley on skis.

PHS

Beirut The Israeli soldiers were sitting in their company headquarters just off the Damascus Road, some leaning on chairs, others lounging across military issue beds.

But was it worth it? Was it worth so many thousands of civilian deaths - it was worth more than 450 Israeli deaths - to come here to this dirty, half-ruined building on a Lebanese mountainside and sit here night after night, surrounded by real or potential enemies?

A soldier by the door spoke first. "Galilee was under constant attack", he said. "Our civilians were dying there and they lived in this tension day after day. We couldn't let that go on year after year. No one could. What would we do? But why, then, did the Israelis go as far north as Beirut?"

Two soldiers believed that Ariel Sharon, then Israeli Defence Minister, should have pushed on into west Beirut in the first week of the war. Another thought the Israeli army should have stopped at the Awali River, just north of Sidon. There were serious doubts. "There was a point", said a young reservist. "When we started asking 'How far north? To Tripoli? To Amman?' 'Where are we going?' But we had to get the PLO out of Beirut."

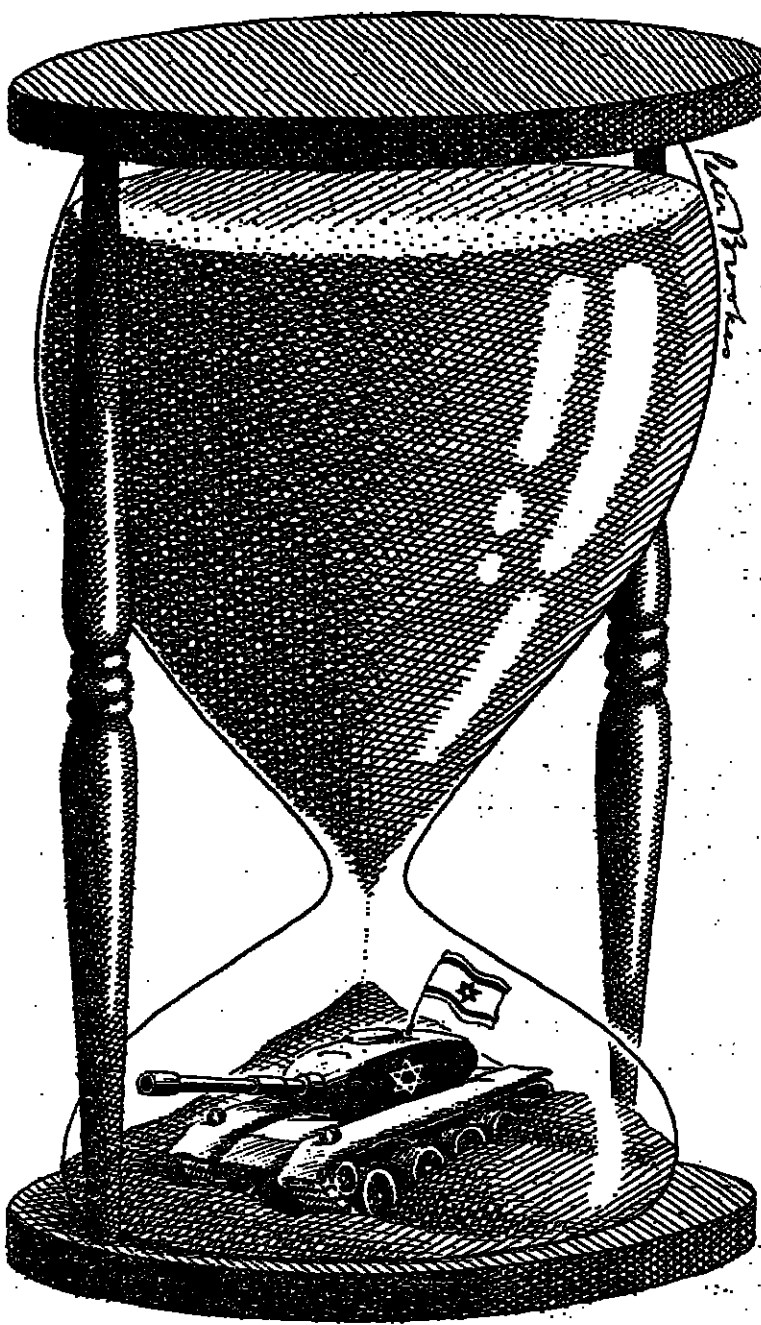
The soldier by the door wanted to know why "our friend" America had turned against Israel. The doctor growled one word: "Weinberger."

Someone talked about destroying the PLO, but another, more reticent soldier interrupted him. "The word should be 'pressure' not 'destroy'." he said. "The problem is not the Palestinians or the Israelis - but their leaders. There is only one way to stop the PLO doing these terror things - by making friends with the Palestinians."

In the whole company headquarters, only two of the soldiers belonged to the Peace Now movement, and the Israeli army is not about to walk out of Lebanon in protest against a futile war that has gone terribly wrong. But the odds are stacking up against Israel's soldiers here, and there are increasing signs that they know it.

Sometimes it is an image that provides the evidence: the convoys of Israeli buses driving fast up the main highways, the soldiers poking their rifle barrels, porcupine fashion, through the windows in preparation for an ambush, the trucks at both ends draped with machine guns and belted ammunition - or the young soldier whom we met last week in the spring sunshine of the Bekaa Valley, watching a convoy recede into the distance.

"My Jeep broke down," he told us as he stood, rifle at the ready, on the



lonely roadside. "Who are you? Where are you from?" This was no victorious soldier on conquered land but a nervous, frightened lad, far from home and safety, amid the blood-red poppy fields of the Bekaa.

The casualty figures are even less comforting for the Israelis. Of the 462 Israeli soldiers killed since the invasion last year, 113 of them have died since September, when the war was supposed to have ended. The comparable figures for the wounded are 361 out of 2,489.

Palestinian and Lebanese guerrilla attacks in southern and central Lebanon are again increasing. Only last week, Finnish and Irish troops of the United Nations force in the south discovered two new arms caches containing grenades, ammunition, two mortars and a freshly-painted canister of explosives. The army of guerrillas - the "terrorists" in Israeli terminology - have not been beaten after all.

The Israelis know it. Around the highway to Damascus, in the mountains of the Chouf, in much of southern Lebanon, Israel does not even control the countryside. Her troops maintain only a tenuous grip over the main roads. Despite the

army's much-publicized ability to withstand the effects of the Lebanese winter, the tracks of its Merkava and Centurion tanks are showing serious metal fatigue problems.

Strategically, the Israelis' front line is a nonsense. Since the Sabra and Chatila massacres, the Israeli army has tried hard to dissociate itself from the Phalangists whom it once proclaimed as loyal allies, but Brigadier General Amnon Lifkin's 162nd Division has been left holding the road bridgehead around Beirut, the supply route which Sharon forged to the Phalange but which is now little more than a military embarrassment. Lifkin has withdrawn his armour from Beit Mary to the north and would like to pull back to Damour, south of the capital.

The Israeli army's press spokesmen - still ensconced in the villa of a Saudi prince outside Beirut - are now producing broadsheets containing highly selective quotations from the report of the Kahan commission into the massacres, each designed to show that the Phalange should bear responsibility. But the same press office is still putting out the inaccurate and underestimated civ-

ilian casualty figures of last summer and its words lack credibility even with Israeli soldiers themselves.

Back in the early 1970s the same thing happened in Northern Ireland. British officers simply no longer believed what their own publicity machine was saying. In Lebanon, Israeli officers are generally honest about these things, admitting that last year's casualties were far higher than claimed, that the Israeli army was responsible for sending the Phalange into the camps.

Israel's stated military aims in Lebanon have also grown confused. When her army invaded last June, it was allegedly sent into battle to ensure the security of Galilee and push the Palestinian guerrillas 25 miles to the north. But when the Israelis reached Beirut, the emphasis changed: now they were going to free Lebanon from "terrorism" and hand back Lebanon's sovereignty to a legally elected president. But after Bashir Gemayel's assassination and the horror of the massacres the policy shifted again.

There were gun battles between Maronite Phalangists and Druze in the Israeli-occupied Chouf mountains - with guns supplied by the Israelis - but Israeli spokesmen then virtually washed their hands of the affair. The Israelis tried to arrange ceasefires, but, they said, the Maronite-Druze fighting involved old prejudices and had been going on for more than a century. The Lebanese, particularly the Druze, could not accept this. Was not antisemitism also an ancient prejudice? Why could Israel not take the same view here?

In the Bekaa, the Israelis are now facing a long war of attrition with the Syrians. In the south of Lebanon, Colonel Haim of Israeli army intelligence - together with an Israeli officer who uses the name Abu Nooh, have now persuaded several village leaders to pay taxes for militias loyal to Israel. The Israeli army has started calling these militias by the anodyne title of the Territorial Brigade; their artificially created village committees have been graced with the democratic name of the United South Assembly.

Dany Chamoun, the son of the right-wing former president, has been down in Marjayoun paying court to Israel's ally, Major Saad Haddad. There is an alliance in the making here, for with Haddad's militia and Chamoun's political rehabilitation in Beirut, the Phalange could lose its control of the presidency now held by Amin Gemayel. And the Israelis are fast losing patience with Gemayel's intransigence.

But Lebanon is not a client state. It is a quagmire which the Israeli government is still reluctant to leave. Israel's new fortifications in the Bekaa suggest a prolonged stay, for years rather than months, and the possible partition of Lebanon. Mr Begin, who knows his Bible, is apparently not daunted by the Old Testament warnings to those who involve themselves in the violence of Lebanon.

However, there are Israeli soldiers who now suspect that their country is on the brink of a tragedy here. Lebanon is not another Vietnam but there are chilling parallels for the army which fought its way so eagerly up the road to Beirut last summer.

One of the principal arguments used against a June election is that it would not be fitting for Mrs Thatcher as the Prime Minister of the resolute approach to go to the country a year before she has to. Would it not undermine her reputation, it is asked, as the leader who sees things through?

But there is now a new factor in the minds of her advisers. The opinion research conducted for the Conservatives through group discussions with representative samples has been disclosing a belief that it would be appropriate for Mrs Thatcher to call an election whenever she believes that she can win it. This finding has still to be tested by the quantitative methods of ordinary opinion polling. But it is already being taken seriously by those close to her. If it is corroborated to the satisfaction of the Conservative leadership it would mean that the Prime Minister need no longer be deterred from a June election by the fear that it would be regarded as premature. It would be surprising if this consideration did not enter her calculations. It should also affect the thinking of those who are wondering not just when the election is likely to be held, but when it ought to be.

There is a school of thought that it is in the national interest for Parliament to run their full five years. When prime ministers go to the country sooner than they have to, without an absolutely compelling reason, they encourage the development of election fever earlier and earlier in a Parliament's life - which means that more and more of the business of government has to be conducted in the shadow of the hustings.

But I do not believe the matter is as simple as that in a country without fixed Parliaments. In Britain there quite often comes a point before a Parliament has run its full statutory course when there is a general sense that it is time for an election. When such a moment comes it is usually in the national interest for the election to be held.

The Conservatives' private research confirms other indications that the country is ready for an election. It would not have been in the national interest to have called it before now. To have held an election in the immediate aftermath of the Falklands victory would have been monstrous, turning a national triumph into a partisan issue. To have held one earlier this year because of the run on sterling would not have been outrageous, but it would have been unwise because it was unnecessary.

Sterling's troubles were not caused simply by investors' fears of a Labour government. In any case, it means clear that the fall that has taken place in the exchange rate has been bad for the economy.

But now everyone is waiting for the election. This is particularly evident in Parliament, where some-

thing of an end-of-term atmosphere had developed even before the Easter recess. Nor has this been confined to Conservative MPs, eager to take advantage of their party's lead in the opinion polls.

With the exception of the Telecommunications there is no legislation of much consequence now on its way to the statute book. Everything else that matters is awaiting the outcome of the election. Such a period of suspended animation could be prolonged under a government that saw its function as being to offer the country simply the virtues of calm and tranquil management. But the present government, which believes in radical change, would be carrying its very purpose. If it allowed the waiting period to be extended for long.

That is a general consideration. But there is also a particular one of much greater importance. It has often been suggested that the Conservatives would suffer electorally if the voters were going to the polls in October. Just as the controversy over cross-voting with the Nato deadline of the end of the year loomed close. Better either to get it out of the way in June or, best of all, to wait until next year when the cruise issue would have been settled one way or the other.

I have never been convinced that the Conservatives would be bound to suffer if the election coincided with the climax of the Geneva negotiations. But I do believe that the western position in the negotiations would be weakened if the critical stage was conducted against the background of a British election campaign.

The outcome of the West German elections last month undoubtedly strengthened the hand of the western negotiators. It removed the possibility of a government being elected that would refuse to have the missiles anyway. So long as such a possibility existed there was not much incentive for the Soviet negotiators to make concessions at Geneva. They might equally feel that there is no reason for them to give anything away so long as there is the possibility of such a government being elected in Britain.

This means not only that it would be desirable to avoid an October election, but also that it would be no good waiting until next year. To do so would save the Conservatives the possible embarrassment of conducting an election campaign against a crescendo of anti-nuclear protest. But even if it suited the party strategists to wait that long, it would leave an element of political uncertainty in Britain which could have damaging consequences in Geneva.

The best way of strengthening the western position there, which is of critical national interest for Britain, would be to settle in June who will be governing this country for the next five years.

Roger Scruton

Behind the mask of 'authenticity'

During the 1960s adolescents were taught to be "authentic". Authenticity was sold in many forms, from oriental religion to urban terrorism; but there was a common emphasis on salvation through astonishing behaviour. To be authentic was to release your "inner" freedom; it was to exist nakedly in a world of stuffed shirts. What a release! And, in retrospect, how pitiable.

The contempt for ordinary deceptions which comes over adolescents when they must leave the security of the home is a kind of fear: fear of responsibility, of work, of the sacrifices required to ensure the survival of the species. In the face of such commitments, there is comfort in a philosophy which requires us to be committed to nothing. Except that it seems like a cheat. Or at least, it seemed like a cheat until Sartre showed that really "commitment" and "authenticity" are one and the same.

Commitment, he told us, means commitment to the self to its freedom, to its existential choice. True morality, therefore does not condemn the authenticity of the outsider. On the contrary, authenticity is the necessary and sufficient condition for a state of moral grace.

Once this rhetorical trick had been discovered, it became possible to make a handsome living by purveying it. The new existentialist guru - exemplified in the personality of R. D. Laing - could advance to positions of influence comparable to those occupied by the great preachers of the seventeenth century. He could become a psychotherapist, an entertainer, a spiritual leader. He could avail himself of all the resources of the media in order to spread his gospel, and the more fervently he emphasized its youthful quality, the less attention did his audience pay to the empty nihilism of its meaning.

Authentic behaviour, however, because it is purposefully designed to offend, soon offends the agent. He can feel no great satisfaction in being original about nothing, and therefore begins to feel towards himself the kind of suspicion that he feels towards the rival authenticities of others. Authenticity gives way to cynicism, to a refusal to believe, either in the old values of society or in the new values of the self.

This whole process of moral disorientation depends upon an error of judgment: a person is imagined to have a "real" self, hidden behind the masks of social intercourse. By tearing away the masks, it is supposed, you reveal the inner man. But what if there is nothing behind those masks? If they are all there is,

any attempt wholly to discard them is an attempt to rid oneself of one's own existence. It is not surprising, therefore, if the legacy of authenticity is nothingness.

As the young were being exhorted to "commitment", another "authenticity" was being marketed, in the name of scholarship, discipline, and reverence for the past. The principal entrepreneurs were not forward-looking gurus but impersonal corporations, such as Deutsche Grammophon, whose in many ways magnificent "archive" series began to introduce the world to the idea of "authentic" musical performance.

Soon musicians everywhere were searching for the "correct" instruments upon which to imitate the manners of another age. Violins lost their vibrato; flutes were replaced by recorders, pianos by fortepianos and harpsichords, cellos by violas, horns by their valveless ancestors.

Much dead sentiment was pruned away. But much live feeling was lost along with it. Authenticity came over Bach and Puccini like the kiss of death. Only the most accomplished musician can translate himself into the manners of another age without leaving behind him his full artistic sensibility.

Each addition to the repertoire of musical performance changes the character of what has gone before. We do not hear the harpsichords as Bach heard it. We hear it as "other than the piano". And the piano - which created modern music - dominates our understanding of the keyboard. Keyboard pieces which sound ill on the piano can establish only an imperfect claim to our attention.

Were Bach still with us he would, I am sure, insist on inauthentic performance. He would know that music exists in the ear of the listener, and that the post-Romantic car is the product of a complex musical history. Creative inauthenticity enables Bach, Brahms and Mahler to belong together, so restoring the vital continuity without which the past is an empty husk.

The two cults of authenticity seem like opposites. But they are in some sense the same. Each requires us to believe in a reality behind appearance - a real self, or a real Bach - which exists behind our spontaneous social performances. And each fails to see that true freedom requires us to surrender ourselves to social conditions, to give up the illusion that, by struggling against them, we are purer and hotter than our times.

The author is Editor of The Salisbury Review.



The Soar in Nottinghamshire: riverbank greenery or more wheat prairies?

Draining more cash for the farmers

£150m a year - money often spent drastically altering rivers and wet meadows in the name of agricultural production.

The Soar is a classic, and typical, case. In exchange for spending £6.750 acres of meadow will be made less vulnerable to winter flooding. Some villages will receive improved flood protection - which could be provided independently for a few hundred thousand pounds - and motorists on some roads will be spared some winter inconvenience. At least one of the roads is likely to be bypassed in any case.

But it is farm production which is supposed to be the great beneficiary of the scheme. Milk production is expected to rise a little. Beef and lamb production will fall somewhat. Oil seed rape production will rise tenfold, to 335 tonnes. The production of wheat will increase more than threefold to 5,340 tonnes, much of it on land never before ploughed. Overall, according to Dr John Bowers, a Leeds University

economist and an expert in cost benefit assessment, the scheme "represents an opportunity for farmers to switch from a heavily subsidized form of production to an even more heavily subsidized form of production."

Britain cannot find a use for much of the milk and wheat it now produces - it usually goes into storage, eventually to be sold cheaply abroad. But, under the common agricultural policy of the EEC, which guarantees to buy any amount that the farmer produces at a fixed high price, there is every incentive to promote production.

Lord Beaumont would argue that there are three important defects in the case which the Ministry of Agriculture asks to be made before it subsidizes a river or drainage scheme (usually to about 35 per cent, with the rest coming from ratepayers):

cent of the "profit" which the public pays in support prices and subsidy.

The "discount rate" is set at 5 per cent; it should be at least 7 and probably 10 per cent if it is to provide anything like a decent assessment of profitability.

No account is taken of the wastefulness of producing commodities for which there is no demand.

The issue has arisen so publicly because a private Bill was required for any action affecting the river; it is preserving ancient navigation rights that has made the scheme so expensive and brought it under parliamentary scrutiny. Because the Nature Conservancy Council and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds were given conservation concessions in some places, and because they knew that the immediate work to the river bank would be done sensitively, they allowed the Bill to go forward unopposed.

It fell to the Council for the Protection of Rural England to stress the landscape loss. And tomorrow it will fall to the Lords. They have a rare opportunity to instruct a committee to scrutinize at least some of the figures: the sensitive water authorities work on as they use public money to promote private benefit.

The whole of the (private) benefit to the farmer is counted as a (public) benefit from the scheme; no account is taken of the 40 or 50 per

Richard North



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FILLING THE SCHOOL VOID

When, according to legend, Churchill offered R. A. Butler the Board of Education in 1941, the old warrior was taken aback by his relish. "Typical of you, Rab," Churchill said. "I only offered it as an insult." That remark reflects an enduring disposition on the part of some Conservatives: from ignorance or disdain stems a cavalier attitude towards state schooling which diminishes the chance in life of the bulk of their fellow citizens. There is another tradition within the party. It is the legacy of the three Bs: Balfour, Butler, and Boyle. The first B, allied with a crusading official, Sir Robert Morant, founded a national system of public education. The second produced the grand scheme of the 1944 Education Act. Boyle tried to marry the Conservatives' concern with academic standards with the spirit of an age demanding wider opportunities. There is a tradition of publicly-provided schools intended not to upset the social structure but to set a ladder before ability.

Forty years after Butler's statute is a good time to ask which tradition prevails inside Mrs Margaret Thatcher's party. The drafts of election manifestos are being sketched, and Mr David Hancock, Mrs Thatcher's personal choice for Permanent Secretary at the Department of Education and Science, is completing his preparatory reading. But on policy towards the state's schools there is a void. The tribal cry of "standards" and an ill-thought out scheme for vouchers (however well intentioned its authors' efforts to mobilize parents in the cause of superior schooling) will not substitute for the feat of public administration and quality control necessary to produce a system of schools worthy of a nation fighting industrial decline.

Yet despite the huge national investment, consumer dissatisfaction is rife. The discontent comes from middle-class parents whose children are contemporary victims of social engineering in the cause of "equality". In

retrospect, how astounding is the venom with which intellectually sophisticated Labour leaders in the 1960s set out to dismantle Butler's scheme. In her memoir Mrs Susan Crosland recalls her husband coming home to vow the destruction of every grammar school in the country; that list of all the ills confronting Britain in 1965 could possibly have included the grammar schools?

That atavistic attitude towards achievement still permeates the educational pile bequeathed by Mr Crosland. Working-class parents rail against the schools, too, for in the recession they put an enormous premium on formal skills and paper qualifications rejected by some teachers as "divisive". Much anger is directed at a middle-class group, the National Union of Teachers, for its flabby jargon. To some lower income families it seems as if middle-class teachers and education bureaucrats have decided the working class shall no longer have education.

The last thing parents, teachers and above all children need is another period of structural realignment and disturbance according to some central formula. This is willy-nilly a time of change as school populations fall. Even those local authorities most ham-strung by their teacher syndicalists are forced to close schools and redeploy staff. It is a time for modest prescription from the government. Money matters: well-built and properly equipped schools are valuable. But more important is the quality of the teacher. A gifted teacher - gifted in a sense wider than the possession of reasonable academic qualification - can work minor miracles with a big class crammed into a Nissen hut with a blackboard and chalk.

Building on Sir Keith Joseph's recent white paper on teacher education, a reform plan would stiffen the rules on the passage of probationer teachers into the profession. Beyond that teachers' progression up their salary scales would be much more tightly bound than at present to their

performance. Good teachers, like good institutions, shine: the light is visible to parents. Her Majesty's Inspectors, head teachers, school managers. It should not be administratively impossible to marry such judgements with the apparatus of pay and conditions of service. A reform plan would "back winners" - identify and encourage schools which work - and ask why the country's further education colleges have a record and esteem far above many schools? It would blur the school-leaving boundary at age 16. It would stream children according to aptitude. It would bring the Manpower Services Commission and practical skills training into the heart of the schools.

An optimistic analysis might suggest that the road back to educational common sense began with Mr James Callaghan's "great debate" in 1977 - an initiative on school curriculum and the power of inspectors that, typically, was derided by education professionals. Mrs Thatcher has the experience of her own ministerial tenure at education to draw upon: she might usefully re-read the programme and analysis review which was fed into her 1972 White Paper, *A Framework for Expansion*. Ten years on, she would add several paragraphs on the schools' place in preparation for economic life - and if Mr Hancock cannot write them for her, Mr Geoffrey Holland at the MSC would do an excellent draft.

One of Britain's most damaging characteristics has been loyalty to past mistakes. The past two decades of educational policy-making should not be denigrated: there is now in the public education system more than adequate material - human and physical - for the schools to rise again. Several recent generations of school children have been tainted by an anti-achievement ethos and the low calibre of some of their teachers. Mrs Thatcher's manifesto carries an obligation that successor generations of children in the state's schools do better.

THE PRICE OF SELF-DECEPTION

It is no good the Arab world in general, and the Palestinian community in particular, sitting back and blaming President Reagan for a situation in which extremist Palestinians murder their moderate compatriot for being prepared to talk to Israelis. The fact that the PLO has been able to prevent King Husain taking part in the follow up to the Reagan plan may be mostly attributable to a lack of confidence among Arabs that the United States can deliver Israel to a successful negotiation. However, it is sad that the Arabs, and particularly the Palestinians, seem to have become so seduced by the idea that their predicament is all the fault of the United States that they unfailingly exonerate themselves from blame for a situation which can only deteriorate while they indulge either in fratricidal behaviour or chronic indecision.

One of the main reasons for this indecision, of course, is that those branches of the PLO which exist in exile have more temptation - even after the dispersal from Beirut - to remain as privileged exiles, disposing of vast sums of Saudi-inspired patronage, than to get down to the serious business of negotiating a more modest style of life on the West Bank or in the Gaza Strip. West Bank opinion happens to be divided between those

who would support King Husain's return to some representative position over them, or at least to a negotiation on their behalf, and those who persist in supporting the leadership of Mr Arafat and the PLO. The latter do so in spite of every indication, year after year, that the PLO has been able to do nothing for them, and will now be able to do even less. The PLO may be able to luxuriate in its well-endowed exile, but it does so at the expense of those Palestinians who live under Israeli rule, and would rather not do so.

King Husain stood little chance of rescuing any of the West Bank from Israeli rule in a negotiation; the PLO position stands none at all. That is only too evident from yesterday's announcement that a further 57 Israeli settlements are planned for the West Bank. Moreover such an announcement is hardly surprising. The Israeli attitude to West Bank settlements is to create a dynamic situation which either fulfils Mr Begin's dream of a Jewish and Samaritan reunited with pre-1967 Israel, or puts enough pressure on the Arabs to induce them to recognize Israel and to start negotiating about the occupied territories before it is too late because there is no territory left to negotiate about.

It is Mr Begin's intention to create such a web of settlements that the kind of autonomy which he is committed to discuss in the next phase of the Camp David process would already be too modest an animal to cause him any demographic, political or military anxieties, while the West Bank remained under Israeli control. His ambitions would certainly not have been deterred by the behaviour of Jordan and the Palestinians since the announcement of the Reagan plan. On the contrary, the Arab indecision can only have helped Mr Begin. So can the Sartawi murder since it shows that the Palestinian movement seems only able to resolve internal disagreements with "murder", as is also the case in Lebanon. In the circumstances, who can be entirely surprised at the policy of fortification in Lebanon which is being pursued by the Israelis, as described by our Middle East correspondent on another page? It is symbolic of the Palestinian exile's unwillingness to accept this hard reality on the ground that Mr Arafat, when confronted with the murder of his colleague by fellow Palestinians, was immediately inspired to blame the Israelis. He was speaking, of course, to a Yemeni audience. He deceived them, as he has for years, deceived himself.

AN ARBITRARY WAY WITH GRANTS

Citizens advice bureaux sprang into being immediately on the outbreak of war in September 1939. They were the product of voluntary planning under the aegis of the National Council for Social Service. They worked closely with government departments and local authorities, which came to rely on them as an important channel of communication with members of the public. They were soon in receipt of grants from public funds in recognition of their value.

The organization was started to help less competent citizens thread their way through the regulations, restrictions and obligations of the bureaucratic society necessarily introduced by total war. After 37 years of peace the bureaucratic tide has not receded, nor civic competence become general, so far as to remove the need for the service. There is a strong demand for what the bureaux provide, as places of explanation, dispensary of first instance, as referral agencies - especially, though by no means only, where immigrants are concentrated. By filtering problems and resolving some before they become magnified, the advice bureaux relieve very many worries and

promote economy in the expenditure of administrative and legal resources.

The present government in its early days doubled its grant to the bureaux to £3 million a year to compensate for withdrawal of support for local authorities' consumer advice centres. The grant has now crept up to £6 million, and it is this sum that Dr Gerard Vaughan, the present Minister for consumer affairs at the Department of Trade, threatens to withhold in part if the organization does not put its house in order.

Dr Vaughan has not made clear either to the advice bureaux or to the public at large what it is that he expects them to do. Dr Vaughan sits for Reading. The full-time director of the citizens advice bureau there is (or was) Mrs Joan Ruddock. Mrs Ruddock is chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Dr Vaughan's colleague Mr Heseltine is locked in argumentative combat with CND. Dr Vaughan had had complaints from constituents that Mrs Ruddock was misusing her position in the citizens advice organization to further the cause of unilateralism. The allegation has not been sustained, and Dr Vaughan does not now use Mrs

Ruddock and CND as an explanation of his dissatisfaction with the advice bureaux.

He speaks of inefficiency on the part of the national association in the use of its resources, though the officers of the association say they have received no complaints from him on that score or special requests for information. Other criticisms mentioned are that there is overlapping with other centres of advice, and that the nature of the advice or the activities of the bureaux have become too political.

That there are instances to give rise to such criticism is quite likely. That they are widespread or systematic would surprise those who have watched or have dealings with the citizens advice bureaux. To use these complaints as a basis from which to threaten financial sanctions, before the complaints have been squarely put to the organization itself and without their having been examined impartially in relation to the work of the organization as a whole, is an arbitrary exercise of power. It is all the more objectionable in dealing with an organization that has a long record of proven usefulness to millions of anxious people.

Inequality over war graves

From A. W. G. Wakefield

Sir, It is with mixed feelings that I read and hear of the visit of relatives to the war graves in the Falklands.

Two years ago my wife and I visited the grave of my brother at Kanchanaburi, in Thailand. He died on the Burma Railway in 1943.

This year we managed to reach the War Graves Cemetery at Thanbyzayat in Burma, where my wife's twin brother lies buried. He also died on the railway in 1943.

We have waited 40 years to do this and no doubt there are many who would dearly like to visit loved ones who lie in far-off places, but find the cost prohibitive.

I wrote to the Ministry of Defence, suggesting that help towards costs might be given, but the reply was that no funds exist for this purpose.

Hence my mixed feelings on the Falklands visit and on the publicity being given to it. It is most likely that others feel the same.

Incidentally I would advise against visiting Thanbyzayat until a proposed hotel is built in Moulmein in two or three years' time.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. G. WAKEFIELD,
48 Holden Way,
Uptonminster,
Essex,
April 7.

From Mrs C. Kirk

Sir, I am very glad Falklands widows are enabled to visit their war graves. But what about surviving widows of the Second World War, and even the First? We were never offered any such facility, nor hand-outs from any fund such as the South Atlantic.

Many of us have never been able to afford to visit our husbands' graves. Though apparently much increased, the actual purchasing power of our pensions remains much as it minimally was in 1944-45.

Can you persuade the powers that be that we, too, should have the chance of such a visit made for us?

Yours truly,
CORALIE KIRK,
13 1/2 Arundel Road,
Dorking, Surrey.

Irish compromise

From Dr Desmond Keenan

Sir, It has been asserted (letter, March 30) that the British Government once believed in a united Ireland. Surely this is going beyond the evidence. Asquith or Lloyd George may have expressed general pious hopes with regard to Ireland's future prosperity. This does not mean that they believed it would come about, or come from Irish unity, or that Irish unity, as opposed to Irish harmony, was desirable. Still less does it mean that they believed that any action of his Majesty's Government would bring unity about.

This year marks the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the first attempt by the southern nationalist Catholics to persuade the northern Protestants to join a separate Parliament in Dublin. On January 18, 1833, a meeting was held in the Royal Hotel, College Green, Dublin. The Protestant leaders simply ignored the meeting.

Ulster Protestants, then as now, had not the slightest intention of subjecting themselves to a "Popish" Parliament in Dublin. They wanted them, as they want now, to effectively uphold "scriptural Christianity" in Ireland as far as that was possible. They fiercely opposed the Whig Government of the day, as they opposed the Liberal Government in 1912, as they opposed the Government in 1974.

When it comes to a challenge to their basic beliefs and aspirations no British government has any control over them. Nor does any civilized government nowadays wish to challenge them on such points.

The way forward in Ireland can only be through mutual tolerance and understanding. So, for a beginning, Catholic nationalists must jettison entirely their propaganda version of Irish history, cease to blame everything on England and the supporters of the English, accept responsibility for the consequences of mistakes, to use no stronger word, made by their side in the past, cease to regard themselves as the only aggrieved party, try to recognize the values which the Ulster Protestants defend so staunchly.

If they recognize their own sins and excesses then, perhaps, the Ulster Protestants may be induced to recognize theirs. Then, and only then, will there be any realistic prospect of a united Ireland.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
DESMOND KEENAN,
(An Ulster Catholic),
129 Bluebird Walk,
Chalkhill Road,
Wembley Park,
Middlesex,
March 30.

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, In their letter (April 5) Professor Michael Pentz and his friends display a breathtaking conceit. They assure us to believe that the scientific expertise at their disposal outweighs that available to the President of the United States. The proposition that non-nuclear "super-weapons" to destroy missiles in space can be built has been around for some time and has been studied in Washington as a practical possibility for the past two years.

The Soviets, on their side, have certainly been studying the military uses of space lasers since long before the Reagan Administration took over. They may not have paid equal attention to General Daniel Graham's "High Frontier" proposal for

Design education

From Professor A. Kennaway

Sir, Technical education has traditionally concerned itself with analytical studies in science and applied mechanics both at school and at university. The process has allowed those schoolchildren who take easily to abstraction to graduate. Few will argue that this process alone turns out real engineers, architects or designers.

The advantage of projects which require students to design, make and test some real thing is that they can see how to use their analytical skills, bring them together with other concepts such as costs, the market requirements, production methods and aesthetics and ergonomics.

For several years this college has

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vital principles involved in Police Bill

From Dr Richard Fox

Sir, The likely implications of current legislation can be seen from experience in the United States, where I worked for several years after a lifetime in the National Health Service. Each psychiatric facility incurs much expense employing whole-time administrators to scrutinize medical records for material which might be actionable with the result that pertinent information, which could be crucial to the patient's best interests in the future, tends to get left out.

I even encountered one hospital which kept two sets of case records, one lot in which the doctors could write freely, and the other lot for the scrutiny of the innumerable organizations which had access to them. There is a positive spin-off in that United States case notes are more legible, coherent and signed. One recognized how appallingly bad NHS notes usually are.

One's responsibility to one's patient, when balanced with that to society at large, is obviously delicate. I have always helped the police with their inquiries within the limits of ethical secrecy. My constabulary colleagues recognized my limits, as I recognized theirs, and I believe our collaboration over many years was to the greater benefit of the body politic.

This has helped me, I believe, rehabilitate a great many people on transfer from prisons and special hospitals such as Broadmoor and probably prevented some from going there in the first place. Distressed refugees from the IRA movement, to take an extreme case, would hardly seek help from any persons where the term "confidential" did not mean just that. The Samaritans, I suspect, is but one of the number of organizations which will just stop keeping records.

If any state official seeks to plunder my medical records, under whatever Act, then book me a cell in the Scrubs. This I will hope to share with colleagues from among the theological, social work, medical and many other groups.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FOX,
Consultant Psychiatrist,
Brighton Health Authority,
The Lady Chichester Hospital,
Aldington House,
New Church Road,
Hove,
Sussex.

this clause would be an added justification for failure to pass the proposed legislation.

He calls in aid what he describes as a "secret defence" having been introduced in the case of *R v Arthur*. This distorts the true facts. In the Arthur case an eminent pathologist added facts and opinions which prevailed, which the Crown pathologists had not discovered, but which they could have done had they applied their ability and knowledge with the same diligence and methods of investigation as the defence. There was nothing "secret" about it; the Crown simply failed to ascertain that which was there for them to discover.

Our system of criminal justice, which is fundamental to freedom and liberty rests on two pillars - an adversary system and the onus of proof resting on the prosecution.

The former requires each side to perform its functions with efficiency and thoroughness; the latter requires that no citizen is ever called upon - in scientific or any other aspect - to assist the Crown to prove its case, least of all in the repair of its own deficiencies. We begin to erode these principles at our peril.

Moreover, someone should have told the Home Secretary that procedural rules which seek to preclude the advancement of a valid defence in criminal trials are as impractical as they are unjust. Only one judge would have to preclude such a defence and the public outcry would ensure it never occurred again.

Yours truly,
DAVID NAPLEY,
107-115 Long Acre, WC2,
April 11.

From Mr T. C. F. Prittle

Sir, One brief comment on Professor Moule's statement (April 7) that "Jesus was indeed a Jew, but one whom his fellow-Jews could not tolerate. This is a fact..."

Would it not be true to say that a handful of Jews in high office rejected Jesus, essentially because they feared him as a potential rival, while thousands upon thousands of Jews welcomed him and his teaching? One need cite just one instance: 5,000 Jews listened to him preach on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and accepted his message.

Professor Moule has fallen into the age-old trap of condemning a whole nation because of the alleged behaviour of a few members of the Establishment.

Yours etc,
TERENCE PRITTE,
9 Blithfield Street, W8,
April 8.

From Mr Ian Brough

To quote judicial dicta from an area of law in argument against the enactment of new law in that area as Mr Geoffrey Bindman does (April 5) is both reactionary and simplistic. Of greater concern, however, is his presumption that the law of the liberty of the subject is static and somehow isolated from the traditional path in English Law of evolution with social change.

When one considers the legal changes since the war in such areas as matrimonial law, judicial review of administrative action and natural justice, any of which may affect the subject and his rights, the weakness of the presumption becomes clear.

Should Mr Bindman seek evidence of social change requiring the new Police Bill, he need look no further than the recently released criminal statistics.

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9 Rochester Gardens,
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Sir, Professor Mason asserts (April 9) that it would be retrograde if, due to controversy and lack of parliamentary time, clause 63 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill was lost since it would introduce rules requiring the defence to disclose the nature of its expert evidence in criminal trials. In fact, the loss of

facism is a relatively harmless form of authoritarianism which has "very little in common" with Hitler with whom it bears close examination. Dr Scruton writes as if the Rome-Berlin Axis and the Second World War had never happened.

Does he not realize that in the 1930s Mussolini enacted Hitler's race laws in Italy and that by the 1940s his regime was a mere satellite of Nazi Germany? Is he unaware that fascism was in any case a Europe-wide movement and that in one occupied country after another fascist movements enthusiastically collaborated with the Nazi conquerors in their policies of genocide, massacre and terror?

Would he be surprised to learn that in a study of present-day fascist movements in over 20 countries I found their leaders in almost every case identified Hitler's Nazi regime as the heroic zenith of fascism which they yearn to restore?

Had Dr Scruton been in possession of the basic facts about the recent history of fascism I feel sure he would not have been able to write in the way he did.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL WILKINSON,
University of Aberdeen,
Department of Politics,
Edward Wright Building,
Old Aberdeen,
April 6.

From Sir Andrew Gilchrist

Sir, In your article about the provision of suitable accommodation in foreign parts for British Ambassadors (April 6) you take Eden Hall in Singapore, as a leading example of alleged excess.

It may well be that a six-bedroomed house is excessive accommodation by today's standards for the Queen's representative in Singapore, but I am much more interested in a point which is mentioned only casually in the article. Eden Hall was bought for £75,000 in 1955 and is now worth (and I am told this is a decidedly low estimate) £2,750,000, a brilliant piece of property investment if ever there was one.

This investment, I may add, was bitterly if not venomously resisted by the Treasury, and I am sure the transaction did no manner of good to the Foreign Office man on the spot who drove it through. I refrain from mentioning his name, though I am able to say that he would not object to receiving a small commission (say) 7% per cent on the profit which the Treasury is anxious to make.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW GILCHRIST,
Arthur's Craig,
Hazelbank,
By Linnark,
April 8.

From Mr Derwent May

Sir, An ornithological anachronism has recently been creeping into British films set in the countryside. Both in the film *The Draughtsmans' Contract* and in the television adaptation of Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* a collared dove was heard vigorously cooing in the background. This was not surprising, since both productions were filmed in the 1980s, when the collared dove had become a common English bird. But it was not a sound that could ever have been heard in a Restoration garden, or at St Ives before the First World War.

The invasion of the collared dove from the Continent only began in 1955; before that, it was a totally unknown species in the British Isles.

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From Mrs E. F. Wartenberg

Sir, Further to your Easter editorial, "Jesus was a Jew" (April 2) and the ensuing correspondence, I found the following "Prayer of penance" written down by Pope John XXIII shortly before his death which I submit in a - but poor - translation:

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Forgive us, O Lord, the curse we so wrongfully pronounced upon the name of the Jews. Forgive us that - with our curse - we crucified you for the second time. For we knew not that we did (Preface to Friedrich Heer, *Gottes Liebe, Beichte Verlag, Muenchen, 1967*).

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ELISABETH WARTENBERG,
1 Kidderpore Gardens, NW3,
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From Mrs Margaret Ipsen

Sir, May I bring to your attention the fact that the authorial credits to the poem "Leda and the Swan" belong to William Butler Yeats, and not to D. H. Lawrence, as Hilary Finch states in her otherwise trustworthy and generous review of Jane Manning's concert at Wigmore Hall on March 29.

Your reviewer was misled, perhaps, by a faulty programme note, or else carried away by the "translation" into sheer sound of the sensuous veiled eroticism of the poem. The error is, all the same, not a little surprising, and the more noticeable for its appearance in your Arts columns two days in succession (March 30/31).

With due respects and apologies to Ms Finch and to Tzvi Avni, the composer of the musical setting to Yeats's poem, I do think that an extraordinary performance of what, I'm sure, must have been movingly evocative words as well as music ought to be reviewed, not only with the generous praise it deserves, but also with correct reference to the author, and composer.

I remain, Sir, a respectful American admirer of British poets, musicians, and arts critics.

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Religious guidance on penitence

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Desirable residence

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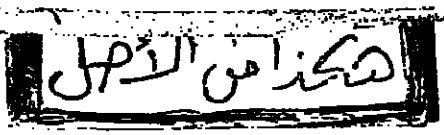
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THE ARTS

Television
Power in the pit

Vietnam (Channel 4) last night examined the *Roots of War*, and, in a country which has suffered one thousand years of internecine and international conflict, as well as successive waves of Chinese, French, Japanese, British and American troops, there would seem to be little else to examine. Saigon, in the Thirties, looked like Paris. The French drove around in open landaus and sent home postcards showing the severed heads of captured rebels. In the Sixties, the city resembled the outskirts of an American army camp. If we can talk about "theatres of war", then Saigon has always been a much loved stage. Or, rather, a pit in which the "great powers" could combat each other: they had no need for sawdust, they had the Vietnamese to tread upon.

This programme (the first of 12) made it quite clear that in fact, when they were not fighting, the imperialists greatly preferred each other to the natives. After the Second World War, the British actually re-armed the Japanese, who had invaded the country, so that they could maintain "law and order". This was to ensure that the French could safely re-assume their own control. There were other ironies in this most unhappy story: it was originally the Americans who supported Ho Chi Minh and his Communist forces, and in 1945 "Uncle Ho" borrowed phrases from the American Declaration of Independence in order to write his own. Good intentions are always the first to disappear, however, and it was not long before Presidents Johnson and Nixon were asserting the more durable principles of self-interest.

This series is no doubt going to explore the Vietnamese War with the same relentless thoroughness as, for example, *The World at War* documented the battles between 1939 and 1945. But, although the advantage of television history lies in its immediacy, the danger is always one of over-simplification. Last night we saw what was essentially a schematic outline, with the colonial powers as the villains and the Vietnamese as the unshing heroes. That may well be the most plausible interpretation of the facts, but it ought to be made clear that it is only an interpretation. Nevertheless, this was an interesting beginning - and, for a programme which lambasts colonialism, there is a further irony in the fact that it is a joint English, French and American production.

Peter Ackroyd



Edmund Dulac, 1882-1953
Geffrye Museum

Gustave Doré, 1832-1883

Hazlitt, Gooden and Fox

The most famous French artists to work memorably in England have mostly been birds of passage, coming, like Pissarro, when it was politically expedient to do so and going home as soon as they conveniently could, or following a particular visual obsession, like Monet with the mists of the Thames, but never apparently contemplating permanent residence or directing their work primarily at a British public. Frenchmen who have resettled themselves here in a more thoroughgoing way seem generally to have suffered somehow for this eccentric choice - if only by falling between stools in public estimation, neither properly French nor properly English. It is perfectly possible that they would have remained minor figures anyway - would Lucien Pissarro ever quite have rivalled his father Camille; would Tissot ever have been spoken of in the same breath as his friend and admirer Manet? - but indecision about which national pigeonhole is most appropriately filled by a particular artist

seldom helps a reputation in the long run.

Edmund Dulac is an interesting case in point. The exhibition marking the centenary of his birth, which began in Sheffield late last year and is now having its London airing at the Geffrye Museum (until May 29), revives a variety of memories, from the exotic gift-books he so successfully illustrated in the early years of the century up to the chic Deco stamps he designed for the Free French territories during the Second World War, and makes a strong and fairly consistent impression. And yet it remains disturbingly difficult to label him precisely. If ever a Frenchman set out deliberately to become English, it was he. Even in his teens, we are told, he was the complete anglophile, nicknamed "l'anglais" by fellow students in Toulouse because of his devotion to dressing in the English style and his complete absorption in the work of English painters and illustrators such as Beardsley and Crane. When he came to England at the age of 22, it was for keeps.

And yet he always remained something of an exotic, as distinctly French, for all his attempts to change his spots, as any Paris Druggstore or Pub. With the enormous success of his illustrations for Laurence Housman's retelling of *Stories from the Arabian Nights* in 1907 he entered decisively into the English tradition of gift-book illustration just as it was getting its second wind, with the successful

development of colour photography as a medium for the reproduction of delicate watercolour originals. Indeed, Dulac's only serious rival in the scope and variety of his work was Arthur Rackham, and though from time to time they illustrated the same kind of fairy-story Rackham stuck in general to the northern, the gothic and the costly domestic while Dulac turned rather towards the exotic East or the Chaucerian side of the Middle Ages. Like gods of dissimilar races, they ruled over distinct imaginative territories and acknowledged each other, when necessary, with distant amiability.

While Dulac's delicate fancy in his illustrative work is very English, the taste for elegant simplicity, the Ravelian precision with which the most seductive subjects are contained without being emasculated, and the rich, clear colours, flatly applied to make up a sumptuous mosaic surface, continue to mark him out as an exotic. If anything he became more distinctly gallic with the passage of time. His work for American illustrated magazines between the wars shows a greater urge to simplification, which reaches its apogee in the beautifully uncluttered designs for the stamps and unissued coins of Edward VIII's reign. The Free French stamps are absolutely in what one might call the Palais de Chaillot style, and it is difficult to guess where he might have gone, stylistically, if he had not been carried off by an over-riding bout of flamenco dancing.

Galleries
How the French took England by storm and stealth

The elegant gallic simplicity of Dulac's *The Love of a Foolish Angel* (1929); and the dark side of Doré in a detail from his *Billinggate Market*, a preparatory drawing for *London: A Pilgrimage* (1872)



In a relatively small compass - for Dulac's art was essentially miniature - the show pays vivid tribute to his versatility and technical mastery. There seems to have been little or nothing he could not do with watercolour and gouache, employed in a variety of western manners or with the dazzling immediacy of a Chinese brush drawing. He was a superb draughtsman, and an extraordinarily talented industrial designer, turning out patterns for wallpaper, textiles, rugs and such with unquenchable fertility along with all the stamps and coins and playing-cards. There is even one admirable landscape in oils to show that, had he so chosen, he could have excelled there too. We tend to mistrust such facility. But though admittedly Dulac's art scales few heights, it would be wasteful to dismiss the pleasures it offers just because they are content to remain minor.

A couple of generations earlier, another, very different, Frenchman made an indelible mark on England and the English. Gustave Doré died just a few months after Dulac was born - in 1883, at the age of 51. He could hardly have been more different in temperament or achievement. Doré's view of the world was one of cosmic grandeur; his ambitions were on a vast scale. He did, it is true, have a special feeling for the fairy, the ghostly and the generally supernatural, but he was more at home with devils than with angels. The grotesque was more natural and immediate to him.

Though his career was for many years very intimately bound up with London and work for English publishers, we cannot really claim a monopoly on him: he did not visit England until he was 36, when that extraordinary business venture the Doré Gallery first opened in New Bond Street, and it did not so much create his fame as capitalize on something that was already there. The admirable catalogue of the centenary show at Hazlitt, Gooden and Fox (until May 12) begins with the flat statement "Gustave Doré was undoubtedly the most widely known French artist in the nineteenth century", and England was only one of many countries competing for his services.

All the same, he seems to have had a special soft spot for England. And his devotion to the illustration of English literature and English life was amply returned by the thousands who flocked to buy his illustrated editions of Tennyson's *Idylls*, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, Jerrold's scaring account of *London*, low as well as high, and many texts of more universal interest, from Dante to Rabelais and Cervantes to the Bible, not to mention paying their shilling to see his original paintings. This was all rather irritating to superior people: Doré's having made his career virtually without teaching from anyone else, and certainly far away from the regular academic ways of ascent, did not please the French critics, and Ruskin was shocked by his lack of an idealizing tendency; he felt that Doré was coarse and crude and brutal, and that the crowds at the Doré Gallery might as well pay to meet the Devil.

Despite these doubts in high places, Doré did most of what he did remarkably well. He never quite attained total mastery of oil painting: Edmund Spenser remarked of his *Battle of Inkerman* in the 1857 Salon: "His painting is a masterpiece. It only needs to be painted." But everywhere else, in his drawings, his watercolours (which he first took up in Scotland, under strong British influence), his illustrative work in all media and even his sculptures, there are a confidence and virtuosity which silence criticism. But even more, in even the smallest of the drawings this centenary tribute has gathered together, there is an astonishing vision of things.

Doré was one of art's great myth-makers, and if, even at their jolliest, his myths tend towards the grim and the brutal, that is entirely his prerogative. There are moments in the show of unexpected lightness and charm - the four very large watercolours of tropical birds, for instance - but finally we carry away a much more vivid impression of the suffering London poor or the diversions of the damned. For all his misleading reputation as a playboy, Doré knew at first hand the dark places of the physical world and the human heart, and in his own field he was and remains without rival.

John Russell Taylor

David Bowie has recently gone East, for the first film made jointly by Britain and Japan. Peter Popham reports

Cinematic attempt to bridge cultures

The only real opportunity afforded by history for the British and the Japanese to get to know each other was in the POW camps of South-East Asia during the Second World War. Participants on both sides agree that it was not the best start to a relationship. Now a molley group including David Bowie, an equally androgynous Japanese rock star, Japan's most popular stand-up comic and Tom Conti have been back to do it all over again in front of the cameras. The resulting film is the first Anglo-Japanese co-production. The man responsible is the producer Jeremy Thomas, best known for his work with Nicholas Roeg, and the leading Japanese director Nagisa Oshima. Entitled *Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence*, it will receive its premiere at Cannes next month. *Merry Christmas* is based on

Laurens van der Post's 1963 novel *The Seed and the Sower*. Sir Laurens spent several years during the war as a prisoner in Java, and he was one of what must have been a very small number of POWs who were able to see something good, or at least interesting, in the Japanese. He had visited Japan as a journalist in the 1920s and had learnt the language and conceived a lasting respect for that idiosyncratic culture. "Japan was the first country I went to outside Africa," he said recently, "and suddenly I was presented with what I still think is a valid alternative civilization was so enlightening." It was also, later, to save his skin. Brought face to face with a unit of Japanese soldiers in the mountains of Java, he was able to throw them into confusion by addressing them in fluent and extravagantly polite Japanese.



David Bowie as "Straffer" Jack Celliers

His experience as their Japanese crusty. *The Seed and the Sower* explores the far edge of patience and suffering where contact between the two cultures proved possible, despite

their conflicting codes of honour.

The Seed and the Sower was published in Japan in 1978, the year that Oshima won the Director's Prize at Cannes for *Empire of Passion*. The two cultures happened to be a mutual friend of Sir Laurens and Oshima. As Sir Laurens tells it: "He wrote to me after it had been published telling me that Oshima had come to see him, very deeply moved, having read the book seven times, and said 'This must be made into a film - I want to make it into a film.' He put Oshima in touch with me and I so arranged that he would that he wrote that I did what I've never done before about anybody who's been interested in making films of my work. I went out to Japan to see him. We discussed the film project and I was very happy to let him have the film rights."

Oshima's 21 previous films were all made in Japan. "This is my first film to be shot overseas, my first film to use foreign stars and my first one to be spoken largely in English," he says. "With a budget of over six million dollars, which is a dream, it will also be my biggest film." Shooting was completed in about eight weeks in late 1982, mostly on the island of Rarotonga, near New Zealand. The hero of the film is a charismatically handsome officer named "Straffer" Jack Celliers, who is driven by a powerful desire to atone for having betrayed his slightly deformed younger brother years earlier. This motivation makes of him a Christ-like figure, unsusceptible to his captors' methods, which culminate in his bizarrely cruel execution.

Oshima explains: "When I saw David Bowie act in *Elephant Man* in New York, I knew immediately that this was the perfect actor to play Celliers. He had an immense passion, something that transcends reason. If the character Celliers had only his Western rationalism to counter the Japanese, he would have been destroyed very rapidly. But it is Celliers's spirituality, his personal nobility, his inner peace and indestructible charisma that the Japanese actors cannot come to terms with. David Bowie has all these qualities."

One of the film's key relationships is between Celliers and the Japanese officer Voooi, played by Ryueichi Sakamoto, a member of the Yellow Magic Orchestra, the only Japanese rock group to have made an impression in the West. It might be objected that neither Bowie nor Sakamoto looks very much like a soldier, but Oshima defines his decision to use rock musicians because "they are sensitive to what people want

now, they are performers, their antennae are screwed on right, and they don't mind getting right in there and having a go at the truth".

Tom Conti is the film's go-between figure, the British officer John Lawrence who is split between loyalty to his own side and sympathy for the enemy. He strikes up a friendship with the primitive but charming Sergeant Hara, played by the Japanese comic Beat Takeshi, who later saves his life in a mood of drunken magnanimity.

Why a film on this subject now? Oshima says: "The Second World War is the root of all my experience. At a time when there's another crisis and the possibility of a war occurring again, I thought it was essential to take the subject of war into a film." Laurens van der Post comments: "Both he and I are tremendously interested in the fact that art is a bridge between cultures and peoples. The fact that this was a bridge book." The film, too, they hope, will be one to span East and West.

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LSO/Previn
Festival Hall

It takes a great performer to find the heart of a less than great work and keep it beating; and so it was on Sunday when Itzhak Perlman turned his bow to Carl Goldmark's neglected Violin Concerto in A minor.

It is a work which could not be easily mistaken for anyone else's; yet it would probably be difficult for the innocent ear to identify it as Goldmark's. Fingerprints of Schumann, Mendelssohn and Spohr blazed into insignificance, however, in a performance whose robust assurance and obvious affection reminded us of the rigour of Goldmark's own self-tuition and, above all, his deep love of the violin.

When Goldmark's long thoughts threatened to outstay their welcome, Perlman would snatch them up and urge them on. And when the orchestra's diffidence, nicely calculated by André Previn, became merely bland, Perlman would draw the strings into quiet, five episodes

AAM/Hogwood
St John's

Among the most attractive restorations to the concert and gramophone repertory by Christopher Hogwood and the Academy of Ancient Music is Handel's only known suite of theatre music for a spoken play, *Alceste*, which they performed again at their Saturday night concert. Though the play by Tobias Stoltzet apparently never reached its intended Covent Garden production in 1750, and has since been lost, Handel's music for it has a Purcell-like masque effect of celebratory songs and dances.

He later reworked most of this as a cantata, *The Choice of Hercules*, but in its original form the *Alceste* music is diverting, beautifully crafted and mostly cheerful in spirit. Even a bass aria for Charon in a River Styx scene proceeds in a jaunty rhythm, as if the fearful ferryman rather enjoyed coming "to fix your final doom", as the words have it, while the rhythmic variety of hopping and skipping figures gives

Concerts
Radu Lupu
Queen Elizabeth Hall

At first I wondered if Radu Lupu was often so studiously severe as he seemed at the outset of his concert in the South Bank Piano Series on Sunday, which he divided between Schubert and Schumann. He made an impetuous, almost aggressive start on the latter's *Carnival March from Vienna*, played with no glimmer of humour but with a kind of dour insistence, serious-minded at all levels of expressive character and with even the playful scherzino movement acquiring a march-like strutting gait.

When he turned to the same composer's *Humoresque*, Op 20, he moved from one episode to the next like a romantic balladeer, as if Schumann were telling stories about himself through the medium of music and its wealth of inflections. Yet here too much of the playing was assertive or insistent. The wistfulness of G minor enclosing the Intermezzo section was sentimentalized, and the mock-

Concerts
Hilary Finch
Noël Goodwin

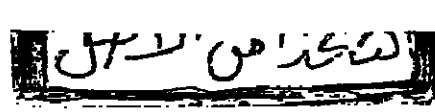
vivacity to the choruses, sung here by the five soloists. They included Emma Kirby, who also sang two arias for the music Caliope, to which her birdlike soprano was well suited both in the first placid invocation to sleep and the florid divisions of the second solo. Three tenors that were characterized by William Kendall's, slightly nasal tone-quality without making enough of their different sentiments. David Thomas was a jolly Charon, and Gillian Fisher and Margaret Cable filled out the vocal ensemble stylishly.

Mr Hogwood obtained a good supporting balance and crisp playing from the period-style instruments, with theorbas and harpsichord, and plentiful baroque oboe reinforced with bassoon. It was noteworthy how much more rounded was the ensemble tone here in St John's, Smith Square, after his Festival Hall *Messiah* a couple of weeks ago, the church acoustic mellowing some of the vinegary baroque string sound, as also in the D major Concerto Grosso, Op 6 No 5.

Concerts
Noël Goodwin

of chamber music making. The London Symphony Orchestra treated sensitively the hallowed ground of the Andante, with Mr Perlman drawing from it a supple, almost cantor-like solemnity and breadth of eloquence. Debussy's *Nocturnes* were originally conceived for solo violin and orchestra and it would have been marvellous had Mr Perlman returned after the interval to untroubled and recreate the original version. But the LSO seemed refreshed by direction which cleared the mists and brought to a bright foreground the rhythmic detail at work in the suspended animation of "Nuages" and the taunting immediacy of the London Symphony Chorus's thoughtfully voiced "Sirenes".

La Mer, too, bristled with the heightened reality of memory. In its vivid metamorphoses of instrument and tempo, its tough internal energy and its sureness of structure, it seemed a true sea symphony, as much for the ear on Sunday night as for the mind's eye.



Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 683.9 up 8.9 FT 100 Index 52.75 FT All Share 428.22 Barclays 28.361 Tring Hall USM Index 171.1 up 0.8 Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Average 8,475.19 up 2.38 Hongkong Hang Seng Index 1,041.86 up 7.69 New York Dow Jones Average (latest) 1,132.93 up 8.22

CURRENCIES

LONDON Sterling \$1.5270 up 2.20 cents Index 81.6 up 1.0 DM 3.6875 FRF 11.0405 Yen 363.00 Dollar Index 122.2 down 0.4 DM 2.4195 Gold \$430.00 up \$8.50 NEW YORK LATEST Gold \$426.75 Sterling \$1.5275

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Base rates 10% 3 month interbank 10% 10% Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 9% 9% 3 month DM 5% 3 month FRF 13% 13% ECU Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 2 to April 5, 1983 inclusive: 10.974 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Beatson Clark 236p up 28p Davy Corp 72p up 5p Fisons 603p up 20p Sotheby's 1.530p up 40p Riley Leisure 177p up 15p Triplex 27p up 5p BTR 414 down 8p Burmah Oil 167 down 10p Church 280p down 10p LWT 'A' 152p down 5p Millford Docks 55p down 5p Molins 149p down 5p

TODAY

Interims: Emess Lighting, Scottish Cities Inv., TST, Smiths Inds. Finals: Aircall, Bowthorpe Hlgs., Brook Street Bureau, Expamet Int., Johnston Grp., Lamont Hlgs., Northern Engineering Inds., H and J Quick Grp.

Economic statistics: Building societies' monthly figures (March); provisional figures of vehicle production (March)

Bid talk lifts Rank shares

Speculation that several leading companies may soon be the targets of bids continued to circulate in the stock market yesterday. Shares of Rank Organisation jumped 8p to 154p amid growing talk that Grand Metropolitan may be casting an appreciative eye over parts of Rank, including holiday and bingo interests. Rank's leisure interests could be worth about £100m. Grand Met has ruled out a full bid.

HOWDEN RESIGNATION

Mr M. J. A. Glover, vice-chairman and chief operating officer, has requested early retirement from Alexander Howden Group from July 1. He will act as a consultant to Alexander and Alexander for the next two years.

ECB COMPLAINT

The European Community has asked Gatt to create a working party to examine the community's complaint that Japan's trade policies are too restrictive.

JAPAN BOOSTED

Japan's trade surplus widened to \$2,040m (£1,355m) last March from \$1,040m in February.

SALES FALL

West German wholesale sales declined 4.1 per cent to DM57,000m in February from the same month last year according to the Federal Statistics Office. The agency said the decline measured 3 per cent when adjusted for inflation.

INVESTMENT FALLS

Planned investment in Australian mining and manufacturing projects is put at \$25,980m by a survey completed in December by the Department of Industry and Commerce. This compares with an estimate of \$31,990m six months earlier, and \$32,800m a year ago.

Wall St gains in heavy trading

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stocks were gaining in heavy trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up more than 10 points early in the morning. The transportation average, however, was fractionally lower on easing prices for the airlines. Advances were more than 2-to-1 ahead of declines.

Mr Sidney B. Lurie, executive vice-president at Josephthal & Co, said the market's rise was being helped by the oil, which has been oversold and now is underwritten and by the enormous flows of money coming into the market from the individual retirement accounts and from the institutions including the pension funds.

International Business Machines was at 105 up 1 1/2. General Electric 104 up 1/2. Digital Equipment 118 1/2 up 1/2. Motorola 103 1/2 up 1/2. Teledyne 145 1/2 up 1/2. Data General off 1/2 at 58 1/2. Sundstrand off 1/2 at 49 1/2 and Greiman off 1/2 at 53 1/2.

Hopes for switch in US policy

By Frances Williams Economics Correspondent Hopes are rising in Europe that the US Government may agree to abandon its policy of "benign neglect" of the dollar exchange rate when the issue of currency intervention comes up at the economic summit meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, next month.

The seven heads of government will have before them a study commissioned at the Versailles summit last year showing that intervention on foreign exchange markets can help to control currency fluctuations.

The study was suggested by Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, after American policy came under attack from European governments which were forced to keep interest rates high to protect their currencies from the soaring dollar.

Publication of the report, prepared by senior officials under the chairmanship of M Philippe Jurgensen, of the French Treasury, is expected in a fortnight after discussion by finance ministers in Washington this month. The report is a technical study of the effectiveness of intervention and contains no recommendations.

But its findings are certain to be used by European Governments to persuade the Americans to abandon their hard-line non-interventionist stance. This is seen as a first step in breaking down American indifference to the international repercussions of its domestic money and fiscal policies, including the burgeoning federal deficit.

An encouraging pointer came at the weekend from Mr Anthony Solomon, president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, which carries out exchange rate intervention for the US Fed. He said in Geneva that the Williamsburg Conference could reach an understanding on modest coordinated currency intervention.

Further evidence of the efficacy of intervention has come from the Base-based central bankers' club, the Bank for International Settlements. A study by two bank economists concludes that official intervention has been predominantly stabilizing and argues that it has an important role to play.

Neddy refuses to suppress report

Howe secrecy plea rejected

The possibility of suppressing a controversial gloomy report on the future of the economy, which includes a prediction of no growth in employment this decade, was raised yesterday by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor.

Morgan Grenfell in vast underwriting operation BTR offers £573m for Tilling in record UK industrial bid

By Jonathan Clare

BTR, the industrial conglomerate, has launched Britain's biggest industrial bid in attempting to take over Thomas Tilling a week after a dawn raid to pick up 6 per cent of the shares.

The bid, in the form of a share swap, values Tilling at about £573m, equivalent to 197p a share. There is a cash alternative of 185p (compared with last week's bid price of 175p) which values Tilling at £538m.

Tilling's businesses include Pretty Polly tights, Heinemann, the publishers, and Cornhill Insurance.

The bid was vigorously rejected by Tilling, which is promising that its poor 1982 performance will be transformed this year.

significant than the record size of the bid. The first £376.8m of the cash alternative will be provided by Morgan Grenfell, which has found buyers for all the shares to which Tilling shareholders would become entitled under the share offer.

The sheer size of the sums would make it very difficult for BTR subsequently to change the terms, although there was much talk in the City yesterday of shareholders holding out for 210p.

BTR, which was itself built up by Mr Owen Green, the chief executive, sees enormous potential in turning round Tilling's diverse businesses. It believes there are few areas of overlap and few economies of scale, and it would put in BTR management to improve Tilling's

performance, as it did with Serck 18 months ago. Because there is an overlap, BTR hopes that the Office of Fair Trading will not be moved to refer the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The institutions which



BTR's Owen Green: waiting to turn round Tilling's varied business

accepted 175p last week probably did so as an insurance against a refusal, despite the fact that they were told that no bid would be forthcoming. No institutional fund managers would have been in any doubt that a bid was a racing certainty. BTR points out in its offer

document that Tilling's record, in terms of profits and of return sales, is well below that of BTR. But Mr Francis Black, Tilling's finance director, says the two companies are not comparable.

First, Tilling is a distribution company, where margins are low, so the return on sales would always look low compared to a manufacturing company such as BTR. Second, Tilling's profit record was good until several big problems materialized in the US.

BTR's board has forecast a dividend for this year of 12p - a fifth higher than 1982. The terms of its offer are 10 BTR shares for every 21 in Tilling or the cash alternative. Yesterday, the stock market did not discount the arrival of a possible defence, involving a merger with BET, another industrial conglomerate, whose name has frequently been connected with Tilling.

City Comment

Optimists start the bidding

It is no coincidence that the stock market has suddenly become awash with takeover bids and rumours. Booming share prices have paved the way. As the index rises to new peaks, the successful growth companies have boomed most, inflating the currency of many would-be bidders.

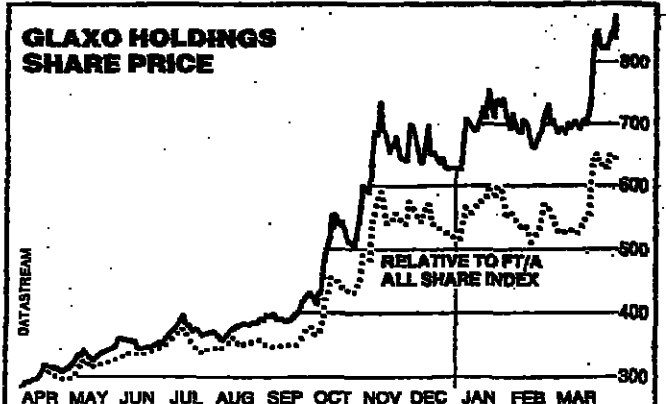
Those rising share prices have other more mysterious effects, making share dealings more fluid and persuading bank managers that leading money to buy blocks of shares is good business.

But it is the return of confidence in the economy that has really set off the recent spate. The optimists believe that the markets for products will return, so if you can buy the assets, businesses capable of earning much better profits, now is the time to do it.

The vulnerable companies fall into two main groups: those with management succession problems like Sotheby, UDS, Rank or Cope Allman, and those with profits depressed by the cycle like Steedley and Dunlop. BTR's bid for Tilling is more a case of dog eat dog, but has elements of both.

This is all meat and drink to the city. Plenty of chance for merchant bankers to make a name for defence and attack and seize new accounts like so many advertising agencies. And they will have to develop new techniques. Sooner or later, for instance, big institutions will realize that they have little to gain from selling in preliminary "dawn raids", in which bidders build up platforms from which to mount their attack.

Many of these bids are the harmless, even beneficial, eruptions of market forces. But mismanagement is not good. The takeover is too easy a substitute for investment in new products and plants, which in the end build the economy. Spare a thought for Glaxo, which has rightly earned pride of place as the most exciting blue chip stock by investing money heavily and steadily in its own long-term future.



Zantac helps Glaxo to £86m profit

By Michael Priest

Glaxo, the pharmaceutical group, raised pretax profits for the first half from £56.8m to £86.3m, at the lower end of analysts' forecasts.

Exports were the key to the increase in profits. External sales went up from £406m to £504m, and within that total export sales rose by £70m to £304m. Domestic sales showed only a slight improvement.

Most of higher overseas earnings came from volume rather than price increases, and currency gains helped. About £8m of pretax profits came from advantageous currency movements, and £6m of that was again from the change in value of net current assets.

One of the star performers was the drug Zantac, whose sales this financial year could reach £100m. Zantac is used in the treatment of ulcers and is one of only two such drugs. It is planned to promote Zantac

around the world within three years. But Glaxo's other antibiotics and antiasthma drugs are also doing well.

Glaxo is the brand leader in certain kinds of asthma relief, and its Ventolin is one of the company's biggest earners. City analysts expect full year profits to be between £155m and £200m; the second half is generally better. Nevertheless, the shares lost 30p to close at 835p. Glaxo also announced that Sir Ronald Arculus, the former British ambassador to Italy, has been made a non-executive director.

Pergamon buys 7pc of Cope

By Our Financial Staff

Hard on the heels of a decision by the Dowable consortium not to increase its 60p-a-share offer for Cope Allman International, Hollis Bros & ESA said it had bought over 6.5 per cent of the engineering to fruit machine company.

Hollis is 85 per cent owned by Mr Robert Maxwell's private company, Pergamon Press, as a result of a rescue deal last year. Further buying later took the Hollis stake up to 7.65 per cent, increasing speculation that it was a "white knight" which would rescue Cope from Dowable.

But Dowable made it clear that it had not thrown in the towel. Under the takeover rules, it cannot increase its present offer after saying that it had made its final offer. However, if another bidder does appear, Dowable believes that the changed circumstances would mean that it could ask the Takeover Panel to give the go-ahead for a new bid.

Sama chief goes amid speculation

From Denis Taylor Riyadh

The announcement that Mr Abdul Aziz Al-Qurashi, Governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (Sama), is leaving his post on Thursday, the day after the budget is expected, has prompted speculation that his departure may be for political reasons. Saudi Arabia is expected to show a substantial deficit this year.

The official reason for his resignation is that he wants to retire after nine years in a demanding job which has made him the best-known Saudi in international financial circles.

A figure with a reputation for being a conservative in fiscal matters, Mr Al-Qurashi has been head of SAMA during the decade which rapidly rising oil prices have brought a phenomenal rapid development to Saudi portfolio of foreign assets. Mr Hamad Al-Siyari, his American-educated deputy, will take over SAMA until a new governor is appointed.

Sterling follows shares up

By Peter Wilson-Smith Bank Correspondent

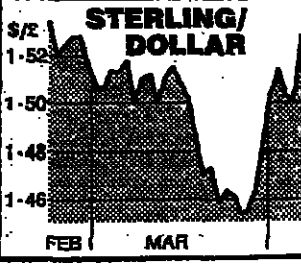
Hopes of an early cut in base rates fuelled another big rise in shares yesterday. The stock market rose to a new record, and sterling moved ahead smartly on the foreign exchange markets.

However, the Bank of England again moved to dampen City enthusiasm by resolutely refusing to countenance a drop in bank base rates.

The FT Index of 30 leading shares closed 8.9 points up at a record 683.9, with government stocks also rising sharply. Stealing came in far sustained buying throughout much of the day. The pound closed up 1.0 at \$1.6, on its trade-weighted index, and ended 2.2 cents up at \$1.5270 against the United States dollar.

The Bank stuck firmly to its existing intervention rates in the money markets which are well out of line with free market rates. Its action caused consternation among the discount houses, which tried hard to get the Bank to deal at lower rates and offer better prices for bills.

With £610m of temporary help to the banking system falling due for repayment yesterday, there was another big shortage of funds, estimated at £900m. The Bank initially refused to deal at all at the



prices demanded by the discount houses, and attempts to get it to shade its dealing rates marginally were unsuccessful.

By the end of the day, only £666m of assistance had been supplied to the markets, and market men were complaining at having to sell bills to the Bank so cheaply.

Foreign exchange dealers said that sterling was helped by hopes of an early election leading to a Conservative victory.

There was some puzzlement in the City yesterday at the way the Bank of England is still obstinately refusing to endorse the trend to lower interest rates. Although sentiment towards sterling has changed markedly for the better in the past couple of weeks, it is thought that its volatility is still worrying the authorities.

Oil companies accept BNOC price cuts

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Most oil companies have accepted the new North Sea pricing package proposed by the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC), thereby increasing the prospect of renewed world oil price stability over the rest of the year.

BNOC confirmed yesterday that an "overwhelming majority" of its 35 suppliers and 25 customers have agreed to the price cuts which it proposed for the months of February and March.

A question mark remains, however, over how long the new prices, based around a £30 a barrel market price, will hold. The companies have given no

binding commitment to agree to the prices through the second quarter of the year, and say they will feel free to renegotiate North Sea prices if there is any sign of the recent Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' pricing agreement falling apart.

While BP, Shell and Esso have all accepted the new prices (at least retrospectively), a number of independent producing companies led by Ticonor are still arguing over BNOC's legal right to backdate price cuts to the beginning of February.

In a statement confirming the new market prices of £30.50 a barrel for February and £30 a

barrel for March, BNOC said "the response is sufficient to confirm these prices and BNOC is pressing the few outstanding and customers for an early reply".

The corporation has succeeded in steering a delicate middle path between the conflicting demands of several oil companies for a larger price cut and the warnings from Opec that any further cuts could risk starting a global price war.

This had raised hopes in the industry of prices remaining broadly stable over the rest of the year, but has not dampened speculation about possible reorganization of BNOC's role

GALLAHER 1982

'New products, services and geographical markets give Gallaher a particular resilience'

S. G. Cameron, Chairman and Chief Executive

- * Sales 15% up at £2,227 million. * Trading profits up 7% at £90.5 million. * Trading contribution from non-tobacco operations up 30% to £26 million - now 29% of Group total.

Pumps and Valves A major profits turnaround was achieved in 1982, Mono Pumps in particular increasing trading profit by 66%. In the UK the year was one of consolidation and steady improvement and Africa did well.

Tobacco In the domestic cigarette business the Gallaher market share increased although total industry sales were down by nearly 8% due to trade destocking, the impact of tax increases and the recession. Our share of cigars and pipe tobaccos also rose, though there was a small decline in roll-your-own tobacco. Overseas, Niemeier earned record profits.

Distribution Mayfair Group was affected by the economic climate but excellent progress was made by Forbuys, particularly in the growth of newspaper and magazine sales, and profits were well ahead. In wholesaling, the grocery division had another successful year, and the tobacco division performed well.

Optical Dollond and Aitchison Group's substantial growth by acquisitions in 1981 and opening of new branches in 1981 and 1982 contributed to an impressive rise in profits. The overseas division has recently been expanded by the addition of the largest optical group in Spain.

Office Products The mainstream office products companies in the UK achieved satisfactory growth in both sales and profit. However, the UK industrial products sector was particularly hard hit by price competition in declining markets and the overseas subsidiaries suffered from recession in their respective countries.

'The major companies in the Group, having survived successfully the rigours of 1982, are confident of their ability to tackle the coming year. The continuing extension of activities into new products, services and geographical markets gives Gallaher a particular resilience.'

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Japanese profits 'will rise 21pc'

Tokyo - (AP-Dow Jones) - Profits of leading Japanese companies in the second half of the present financial year ending next month, will rise 21.6 per cent compared with first half when they are expected to decline 3.4 per cent, the Nomura Research Institute said.

The economies of advanced industrial countries are expected to recover in the second half of the present financial year helped by lower oil prices, and the number of Japanese industries increasing profits will grow, the institute said in its monthly review.

Earnings of 350 monitored companies are estimated to have fallen 3.5 per cent in the second half of the 1982 fiscal year from the first half, or by 9.8 per cent if the beginning of last year were included because its fluctuations widely with exchange rates, the review said.

The present half-year will see the third consecutive fall in earnings of around 3.4 per cent, the institute said. It will be 1.3 per cent if coal and oil are excluded.

Earnings in the basic materials industries are expected to recover in the present six months, based on oil price cuts, and some export-oriented industries will begin to recover, helped by overseas stock adjustments.

The review said that stocks of Japanese products in the United States have almost returned to normal, except for oil pipe and machine tools. No fears of excessive stocks remain for video-tape recorders, colour televisions, sound systems and other consumer goods.

Video-tape recorders stocks rose 9.8 per cent at the beginning of last year were excluded because its fluctuations widely with exchange rates, the review said.

Akroyd pays £1.6m for Wall Street brokers

By Michael Clark

Akroyd & Smithers, one of the two publicly-quoted London stock jobbers, has bought the shares it does not already own in Cohn, Delaire & Kaufman, a Wall Street broker and market maker.

Akroyd paid \$2.5m (£1.6m) for the remaining 45 per cent of the company. Mr Timothy Jones, joint chairman of Akroyd, said the acquisition was intended to take advantage of growing international trade.

"International business is growing fast and our own international business has grown also. It made sense to buy out the minority shareholders," he said.

Akroyd's exposure to the Eurobond market, gold shares and US and Canadian stocks makes it an ideal match.

Akroyd obtained its original 55 per cent stake in CDK in 1977. CDK, which will be called Akroyd & Smithers, employs 40 people.

Mr Jones refused to give any indication of CDK's profits, contribution to Akroyd, but emphasised it had proved "continually profitable".

Apart from its Wall Street broking business, CDK also acts as market maker on New York's over-the-counter-market, and has strong interests on the Chicago futures exchange.

Mr Jones said Akroyd had no further acquisitions in mind.

Clyde in £4m takeover

From Our Correspondent, Glasgow

The Glasgow-based Clyde Shipping Co has reached its present size after acquiring British-owned shipping in the £4.1m acquisition of Lawm-Beatty Tugs of Newcastle, one of Britain's oldest established tug fleet operators.

Clyde director Dr Leonard Peterson, said yesterday.

The takeover follows acceptance by Lawson-Beatty shareholders and the offer is equivalent to £13.63 per Lawson-Beatty share.

The Clyde Shipping tugway interests are on the Forth, and Clyde and in the Shetlands, and a new harbour tug is soon to be ordered.

Clyde Shipping is also active in coastal shipping and marine equipment sales and is involved in quarrying and mineral processing. Its profit last year was £1.5m on assets of £9.1m.

Lawson-Beatty made £750,000 profit in 1982 and reached its present size after acquiring British-owned shipping in the £4.1m acquisition of Lawm-Beatty Tugs of Newcastle, one of Britain's oldest established tug fleet operators.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK ● edited by Sally White

End in sight to Rugby's record run

Rugby Portland Cement Year to 31.12.82. Pretax profit £28.5m (£18.6m). Stated earnings 12.2p (12.1p). Turnover £165.7m (£144.6m). Net final dividend 2.9p mkg 5.5p (5p). Share price 106p + 1p. Yield 7.21. Dividend payable 4.7.83.

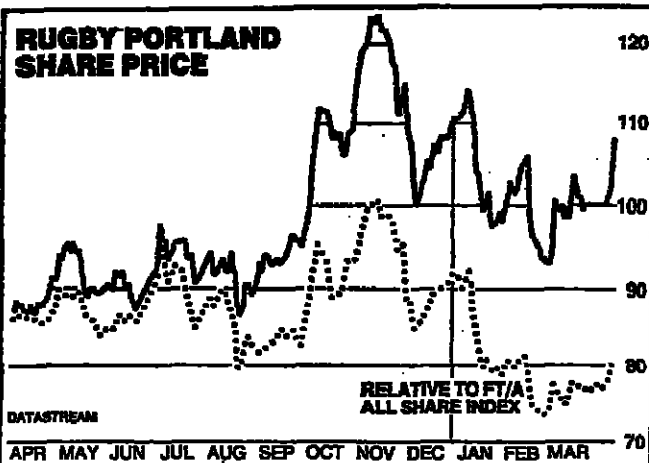
Rugby Portland Cement's run of record profits looks like faltering after last year's jump of 37 per cent. The company's statement gives a cautionary warning pointing not only to the recession in Australia, but to pressure on margins in this country which are unlikely to be compensated from higher sales.

There is general gloom about the likely increase in cement market share that will be taken this year by Comecon exports, even though a joint EEC initiative to block them is chugging through Brussels' corridors.

So while imports are only 1 per cent of the British cement market, some forecasts suggest that they could take a large chunk of the 4 to 5 per cent increase in volume as the economy comes out of recession.

In Australia, which accounts for more than a third of trading profit, recession is biting deeply, and the effect on pretax profits will not be counterbalanced by lower interest charges.

The share price rose strongly last year on hopes of a bid from Mr Robert Holmes a Court, but



it never materialized. This has left the rating looking high. Prospects for this year are for just £18m to £20m at the pretax level, depending on the impact of imports.

Highland Distilleries

Highland Distilleries Half-year to 28.2.83. Pretax profit £3.6m (£2.8m). Stated earnings 4.4p (4.1p). Turnover £50.5m (£47.6). Net interim dividend 0.97p (0.88p). Share price 112p, up 6p. Yield 3.8%. Dividend payable 10.5.83.

Two things favoured Highland Distilleries: lower interest

payments from cut borrowings and Famous Grouse's continued onslaught on the whisky market in England.

Last year, Highland received £2.9m from the EEC as a restitution payment for using expensive European grain. This payment has been applied to cutting debt with the result that first half interest charges were down from £629,000 to £179,000. Future EEC payments will be on a year-by-year arrangement so the amount will be much smaller - about £265,000 this year - but still useful.

Famous Grouse, Highland's well-regarded blended scotch, is still increasing its share of the English market where it now has 9 or 10 per cent. The share

of the Scottish market remains about the same - 25 per cent - and probably represents saturation level. But although market share has been maintained in Scotland, volume is down.

Overall volume sales are up by 1 per cent in the home (the whole United Kingdom market) and 30 per cent up overseas. Overseas sales value is up by no less than 43 per cent and prices are apparently holding up reasonably well.

Unlike most other members of the industry, Highland's emphasis is 80 per cent home trade and only 20 per cent export.

Full year profits should comfortably exceed £6.5m.

Bryant Holdings

Bryant Holdings Half-year to 30.11.82. Pretax profit £3.5m (£4.5m). Stated earnings 3.2p (3.7p). Turnover £41m (£44m). Net interim dividend 0.55p (0.5p). Share price 66p. Yield 4%.

Bryant Holdings, the building group, suffered a first half setback in profits last year that was widely expected because of the state of Midlands house prices. But profits were also depressed by interest charges of almost £600,000 and by increased working capital and land bank purchases. The drop

in numbers of houses, on which financial completion was made, was only about 90.

Bryant hopes that the second half will show an improvement. It refers particularly to the excellent home sales since Christmas. Much of the rising trend in sales and prices - the latter up between 5 and 10 per cent on a year ago - will not however, show through until 1984.

The land bank is now around £27m, or four to five years' supply. The company has been concentrating on expanding its southern operations. At the moment, the split is 60 per cent for the Midlands, and 40 per cent in the south.

Conditions in the south are more buoyant, and Bryant has been frustrated by not obtaining planning permissions as quickly as it would like.

The company says it will be able to match last year's pretax profit of £9.5m. So the market has settled for just under £8m, with prospective earnings of 5.2p adjusted for the one-for-one scrip.

Property revenue is up from £708,000 to £854,000, although that sector is also described as sluggish.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● Galloway Group is confident of its prospects, Mr S G Cameron, the chairman, says in his annual statement.

Like most companies, Mr Cameron says, Galloway faces difficult markets and tough competition. "No significant let-up in the economic recession is assumed, but the major companies in the group, having survived successfully the rigours of 1982, are confident of their ability to tackle the coming year. The continuing extension of activities into new products, services and geographical markets, gives Galloway a particular resilience."

Barton Group for 1982. Pretax profit £400,000 (£1,029,000). Stated earnings 2.72p (3.37p).

Anchor Chemical for 1982. Pretax profit £553,000 (£573,000). Stated earnings 3.87p (1.83p). Turnover £12,187,000.

Greencost Properties Half-year to December 31, 1982. Pretax loss £84,000 (£47,000). Turnover £1,224,000 (£91,000).

James Halstead Group plc Half-year to December 1982. Pretax profit £1,035,000 (£913,000). Stated earnings 4.71p (2.85p). Turnover £12,905,193 (£9,489,000). Net interim dividend 1.25p.

Clonaklin Group for 1982. Pretax profit £1,365,744 (£991,968). Stated earnings 10.64p (8.24p). Turnover (£52,530,248) £27,518,842.

W A Tyzack Half-year to January 31, 1983. Pretax loss £140,000 (£43,000). Loss per share 2.82p (1.25p).

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE				COFFEE				SUGAR				WHEAT				LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES			
Prices in pounds per metric ton				Prices in pounds per cwt				Prices in pounds per cwt				Prices in pounds per bushel				Prices in pounds per £100			
Month	Year's	Month	Year's	Month	Year's	Month	Year's	Month	Year's	Month	Year's	Month	Year's	Month	Year's	Month	Year's		
High grade copper	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50	107.50-107.50		
Standard cash (copper)	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00	108.00-108.00		
Three months	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50	108.50-108.50		
Six months	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00	109.00-109.00		
One year	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50	109.50-109.50		
Two years	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00	110.00-110.00		
Three years	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50	110.50-110.50		

ISSECS	Low	High	Bid	Offer	Yield
Authorized Unit Trusts					
Abbey Trust Managers					
24.00 Abbey Growth	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Income	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Property	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey World	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Bond	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Dividend	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Share	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Cash	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Index	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Commodity	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Energy	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Metals	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Precious	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Real Estate	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Art	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Collectibles	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Entertainment	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Food & Beverage	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Health & Beauty	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Technology	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Telecommunications	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Transportation	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Utilities	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Other	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

ISSECS	Low	High	Bid	Offer	Yield
Authorized Units & Insurance Funds					
24.00 Abbey Growth	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Income	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Property	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey World	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Bond	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Dividend	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Share	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Cash	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Index	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Commodity	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Energy	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Metals	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Precious	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Real Estate	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Art	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Collectibles	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Entertainment	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Food & Beverage	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Health & Beauty	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Technology	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Telecommunications	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Transportation	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Utilities	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Other	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

ISSECS	Low	High	Bid	Offer	Yield
Authorized Units & Insurance Funds					
24.00 Abbey Growth	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Income	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Property	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey World	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Bond	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Dividend	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Share	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Cash	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Index	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Commodity	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Energy	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Metals	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Precious	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24.00 Abbey Real Estate					

Torin Douglas on the people whose 'ovenability' boosted profits and won awards doing so

Taking a bird's eye view of marketing success with frozen foods

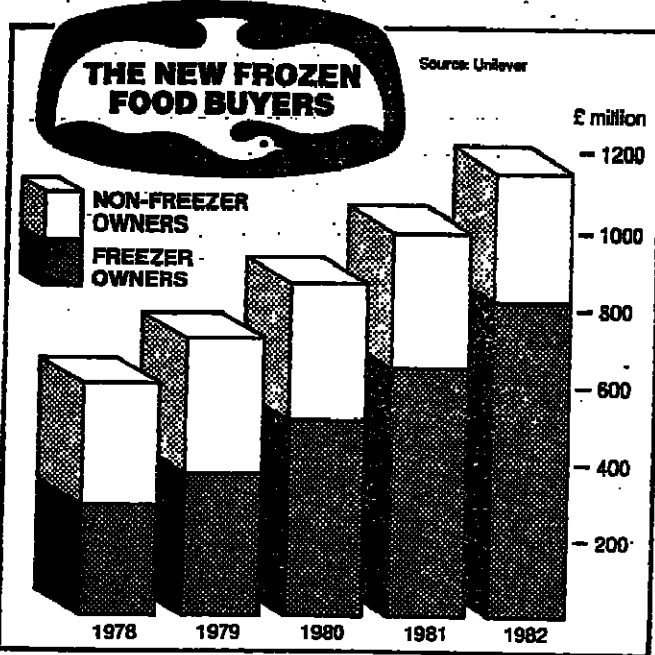
There is a love-hate relationship today between the big grocery manufacturers and the supermarket chains, not least because retailers' own-label products now account for 25 per cent of grocery sales. Yet supermarket buyers are now crying out more than ever for successful new branded products from the manufacturers - even if, as cynics sometimes suggest, it is only so that they can pinch the concept and produce it more cheaply under their own name.

For this reason, the buyers' own estimates of the most successful product launches are eagerly scanned by retailers and manufacturers alike. Each year, the trade paper *SuperMarketing* polls buyers through the Martin-Humboldt research firm and asks them to rate on a scale of one to five the success of every new product. It then compiles a list of the Top 20.

The 1982 chart, just out, shows that four of the top 12 products were launched by the frozen food firm Birds Eye Wall's, including both the overall winner - Birds Eye Oven Crispy Cod Steaks - and the runner-up, Birds Eye Steakhouse Grills. Wall's Viennetta took fifth place and Birds Eye Best of British Chicken Supreme was 12th.

Birds Eye Wall's - the two Unilever frozen food subsidiaries merged their operations a few years ago - is naturally cock-a-hoop about its unprecedented dominance of the proceedings, as is the advertising agency Lintas - formerly a Unilever subsidiary, now part of the American Interpublic group - which handles three of the top 20, including Oven Crispy Cod Steaks and Viennetta. Lintas was commended in the latest Industry Advertising Effectiveness Awards for its campaign for Oven Crispy cod, which features Gemma Craven singing an adapted version of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

Awards are one thing, of course, but real success is measured in terms of sales and profit and here it is clear that the three main new brands are doing well.



"On current sales trends, the 1983 turnover figures at consumer prices will be £12.5m for Oven Crispy Cod, £12m for Steakhouse Grills and £5m for Viennetta", according to Mr Keith Jacobs, Birds Eye Wall's marketing director. "This underlines the fact that the buyers' votes reflect real marketplace success."

All the brands are making a healthy contribution to the company's profit, though Birds Eye, like other branded goods firms, makes no secret of the fact that competition among retailers and manufacturers has put pressure on margins. Mr Philip Bushill-Matthews, the sales director points out in the company's annual review of the frozen food market, that though the market grew last year by 15 per cent to £1,152m - outstripping the rest of the food market considerably - profits had not kept pace.

"While the figures for volume and value growth are totally satisfactory, the same cannot be said of the profitability for manufacturers and, perhaps, for retailers."

"The very growth of the market has produced pressure on margins. In a depressed economy, a growing market (and there are few of them) provides an opportunity for increased sales and profits, but there are many suppliers in the frozen food industry with excess capacity, leading to increased competition."

This, coupled with the continuing trade price war, has led to enormous pressures on manufacturers and trade alike. "This competition in the frozen food market makes product innovation vital. Birds Eye, which has dominated the market for more than 35 years, is under pressure both from rival manufacturers, such as Findus and the Imperial subsidiary, Ross Foods, and also from own label products. Figures given at last month's Market Research Society conference by Ross showed that Birds Eye's share of the retail frozen food market had fallen from 34.4 per cent in 1975 to 19.5 per cent in 1982. During the same period, own label's share rose from 19.4 per cent to 28.8 per cent."

"Ovenability" is the marketing jargon for the capacity to produce foods that taste fried simply by popping them in the oven. Birds Eye decided that an "ovenable" fish in batter, which

Mr Jacobs does not accept these figures because he says it depends what you include in your definition of frozen foods. In addition, he says, Birds Eye looks at things from a value point of view, rather than volume, because it works at the added value, premium price end of the business. Last year,

Market grows to £1,152m but pressure is on margins

Birds Eye Wall's frozen foods turnover, excluding ice cream, was £405m.

"For example, we are not very big in the freezer centres", he says. "We are not in the business of large volume, second quality products. We can't see sufficient profit in it and, in any case, our philosophy is based on high quality, added value and innovation."

Nevertheless, as the frozen food market expands it is impossible for a single company to maintain its dominance across all sectors. "It is such a huge market and there are so many different segments that we cannot be in them all. You might as well ask what share a particular firm has of the total canned food market", Mr Jacobs says.

One example of a fast-growing sector in which Birds Eye appears to have missed out is frozen oven chips, where McCain's is now the clear leader. Yet the company quickly learned from the success of the oven chip market - where it turned out that 60 per cent of purchasers either did not buy ordinary frozen chips at all or infrequently. It decided there was a market for a fish product that could be used in the same way.

"Ovenability" is the marketing jargon for the capacity to produce foods that taste fried simply by popping them in the oven. Birds Eye decided that an "ovenable" fish in batter, which

did away with "the fuss, bother and unpleasantness of deep-frying", had a big future. After 18 months' development, mainly on the formula for the batter, which remains a closely-guarded secret, Birds Eye Oven Crispy Cod Steaks were launched in the Midlands in October 1981.

In addition to monitoring the sales of the new product, Birds Eye was anxious to see what effect it would have on sales of its existing cod steaks in batter, called simply Crispy Cod Steaks, which had to be fried in the normal way. If the new product were simply to divert sales from the old one, it would not be doing what Birds Eye intended, which was to expand the market by attracting people who could not be bothered with frying.

As it turned out, things went to plan and Birds Eye increased its share of the fish in batter market by nine points to 65 per cent and expanded the market by 30 per cent. As a result of this success, the product was launched nationally a year ago and since then sales have been exceeding the targets. The total market for fish in batter increased last year to £38m, of which Oven Crispy Cod accounted for £8m.

Oven Crispy Cod was one of 12 products launched by Birds Eye last year, in addition to which two product ranges were relaunched with quality improvements. Within the next few months, the company will be launching ten more products, either nationally or regionally. Not all may succeed, of course, but Birds Eye maintains its record is better than most.

"I really would claim that the proportions of Birds Eye products that come out of test market into national distribution is considerably higher than the average grocery figures so often bandied about", Mr Jacobs says. "Throughout all our years in the frozen food market, we believe we have always managed to get very close to the changing needs of

the consumer and to meet those needs by a dedicated insistence on three important ingredients - better-than-average quality, added value in product presentation, and new ideas."

Market research plays a key role. Mr Jacobs again: "It provides us not only with a continuous monitor of the many segments of the market but a picture of how consumer tastes and requirements are moving. The needs of today's working women, the fragmentation of family eating, the developing trends of freezer ownership and freezer size are just some of the pointers which market research provides for successful product development."

At the same time as launching products, Birds Eye is constantly revamping existing ones. "Our market strategy calls for a very precise balance between old product developments and innovation, in each of our market groups - fish, meat, vegetables, cakes and desserts. Alongside smaller, sweeter Birds Eye Pies came Stir Fry Vegetables. Alongside improved Fish Fingers and Beeburgers we introduced Oven Crispy Cod and Steakhouse Grills."

Whether this constant process of improvements and innovations is sufficient to keep

12 products launched last year with 10 on the way

the own-label products and smaller brands at bay is something only time will tell, though with the market growing at its current pace and with price still a key factor the chances are that in volume terms the Birds Eye share will continue to fall. In value terms, however, the brand leader seems likely to have things more its own way.

Industrial notebook

Scoring own goals

Alfred Herbert is dead. Long live Alfred Herbert. That was the message last week as the remains of what was once Britain's machine tool giant went into receivership, taking with it a host of Tooling Investments with it. The receiver is confident that someone else will buy Herbert as a going concern, just as Tooling bought it from another receiver after the National Enterprise Board got tired of £57m losses between 1976 and 1980.

But it is not just a swap of ownership. Two other machine-tool groups have gone bust this year and Herbert will shrink, yet again, three more slices in the industry's death by a thousand cuts.

Does it matter? Certainly. Whitehall cares far more about this traditionally strategic industry, sometimes called "the key to productivity", than do many big industrialists, who see it as a tinpot trade best left to small firms. The machine tool industry is not quite a microcosm of our troubles, but its decline is instructive as well as damaging. We have many industrial lessons still to learn.

It is fashionable to suppose that machine-tool manufacturers are being killed off by foreign competition. Korea and Taiwan make the cheap basic tools at one end. Japan is mounting a determined onslaught at the other, to corner the market for high-value computer-controlled tools and machining centres that now account for more than a third of the British market by value, though fewer than one in 15 of machines sold. Well, imports may give the *coup de grace*, but they are not to blame.

Machine tools were traditionally specialized and widely traded internationally. Although Britain, perhaps inevitably, lost its dominating postwar position, we have almost always maintained a trade surplus, with the notable exception of 1979. On the latest full figures, for 1981, Britain managed 4.7 per cent of world exports from 3.5 per cent of world output. Until the high pound phenomenon, British exports held up pretty well. But West Germany did much better, notching almost a

quarter of world exports from 15 per cent of production. Meanwhile, Japan's share of world exports was two points lower than its share of production, though that was an enormous 18 per cent.

As with motor cycles, it was the decline of our industry that let in imports, rather than the imports killing it. The troubles were at home. It was, to say the least, unfortunate that much of the heart of Britain's machine-tool trade was in the hands of two, terminally complacent companies. Such dinosaurs might not last so long today.

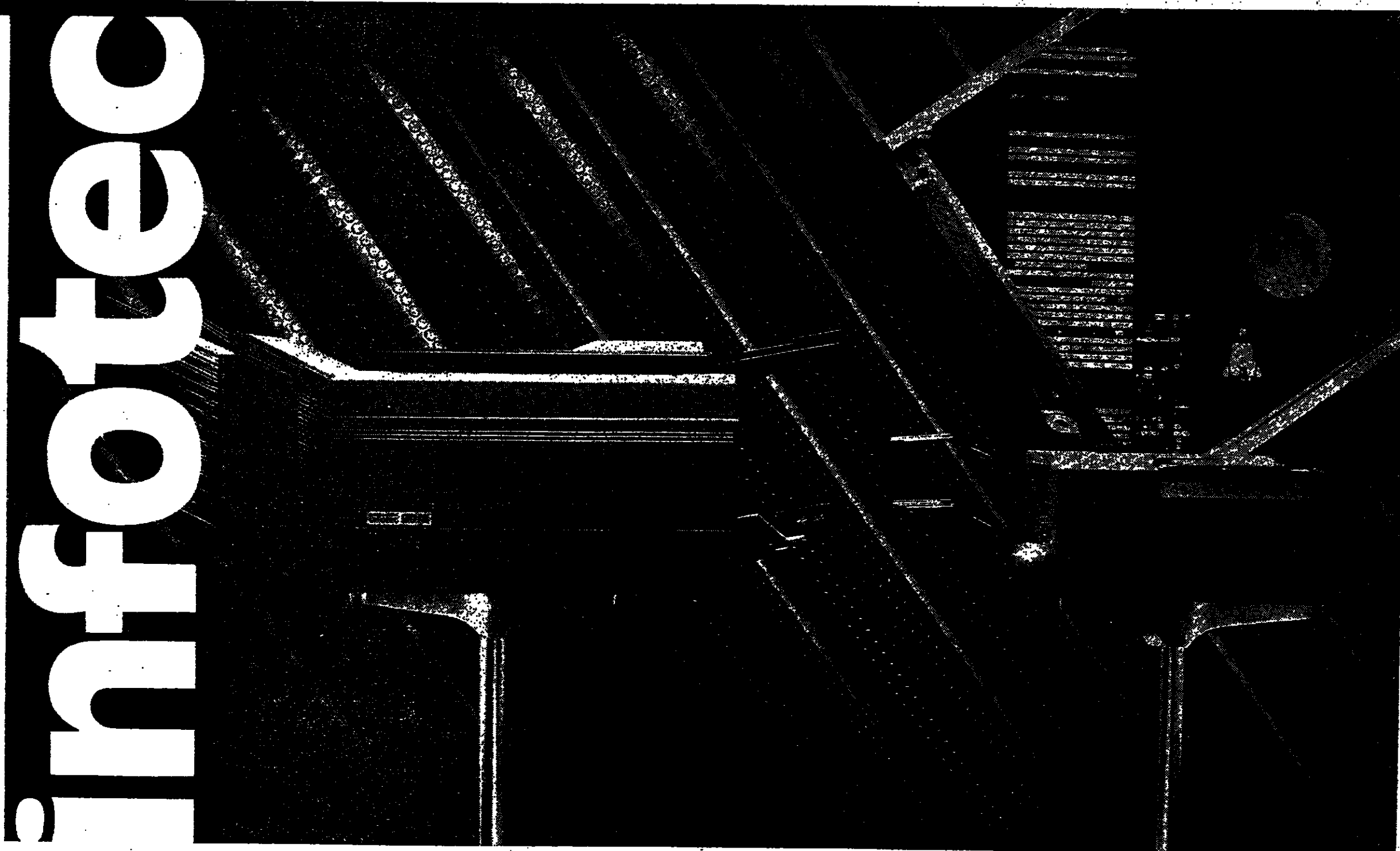
The main, long-running crisis was that British industry simply failed to invest in new machines. Manufacturers failed to create demand with new products. Engineering firms were not interested in the minutiae of productivity and cost-cutting. But mainly, British industry just has not grown fast enough to need the investment goods. Home orders fell over a generation.

Japan has built experts on a huge, growing and relatively stable home market. Britain has had to lean ever more on difficult foreign markets because it could not rely on the wild swings and general decline of its own.

One lesson is that British firms cannot simply hope that home demand will turn up, as so many machine tool makers did. Another is that those disdainful big firms were short-sighted. Technology is transforming machine tools into a big company industry, making high value, non-specialized tools that need plenty of finance and volume. Our firms are getting smaller. Japan's Okuma makes as many computer-controlled machines in a month as Herbert does in a year.

We have reacted with typical lunacy, spearheading a European deal to force Japan to limit its firms' exports of high value machines and to raise their prices, a wonderful formula to make our engineering industry less competitive in future. That policy can make any sense only if we can persuade a large Japanese company to take over the remains of Alfred Herbert.

Graham Searjeant



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Computers in Congress

Scorpio stalks Capitol Hill

During the Carter administration, "the White House became an unprincipled information thief". Such a remark may seem out of character in the serious world of government but it was made by a senior congressional staff member when it was found that Vice President Mondale, through his dual appointment as president of the United States Senate, had allowed White House staff free access to the congressional computers.



At the time, the White House was concluding tough negotiations with Congress on several proposals for legislation. By tapping the computers, Carter's men were able to gain a strategic advantage; they were able to find out what decisions were about to be made in the House of Representatives and the Senate and could also obtain voting records of individual Congressmen which could help in the President's lobbying.

The 435 members of the House of Representatives, and the 100 senators have three computer systems available to them. Each chamber has its own, and the third is in the Library of Congress. All three were developed separately, and while their growth reflected different needs, priorities and funding arrangements, there are considerable areas of overlap.

Such duplication can be an advantage since when one system is not functioning, which happens quite often, access can be made to one of the others.

Last summer I spent five weeks as a visiting scholar in Washington studying the Scorpio system in the library.

By 1970 the Library of Congress was already using automatic data processing, but Scorpio was set up in 1973 and, of the three computer systems on Capitol Hill, it is the most comprehensive.

There are more than 4,000 terminals on the Hill - in sharp contrast to the present 17 at the Palace of Westminster. The majority of these are in offices of the House of Representatives and are of the "teletype" type, which means they are connected to the telephone system by means of an acoustic coupler or electronically wired through a modem.

Terminals in Senate offices are all visual display units. Members of the public may use one of Scorpio's 30 VDUs and thermal printers in the reading room of the library.

Once a user has connected up with the Scorpio data base he can plug into a choice of six main files:

- Legislative information - everything you might wish to know about all public bills introduced during a particular session.
The congressional record - a close equivalent to Hansard.

Major issues - objective run-downs of key policy issues.

Citations/bibliographies - references to articles in current periodicals, journals, etc.

Library of Congress computerized catalogues - details of all books acquired or lodged for copyright, including foreign publications, musical scores, and statistical abstracts.

National referral center resources - descriptions of more than 15,000 information sources (organizations which are qualified and willing to respond to questions on almost any topic).

Unlike Members of Parliament whose access to Polis is through a staff member in the House of Commons Library, Congressmen and their assistants can call up Scorpio's files through their own terminals.

Unlike Polis, which has a growing number of "outside" subscribers, vetted by a committee of the House of Commons Library, Congress is at present hesitant to set up commercial access arrangements other than the present public use of non-sensitive files.

In addition to their own data bases, the three systems on Capitol Hill can get information from a number of other sources. These include: the New York Times information bank, consisting of references and abstracts from more than 60 periodicals; Juris, which stores legal information data; and Medline, which provides access to abstracts compiled by the National Library of Medicine.

The histories of adoption of computer services in Congress and at the Palace of Westminster have some similarities. Both have been beset by moments of resistance to "new technology and change."

In Washington, as we have seen, legislators have a far greater range of resources at their disposal compared with Westminster. But some critics have suggested, particularly regarding the House of Representatives system, that acquisition of information has tended towards a "garbage-can" approach.

Westminster, on the other hand, may have had an advantage of a slower process of adoption, with a close watch on budget allocations, and the opportunity to learn from the successes and mistakes of others.

Indeed, some of my hosts at the Library of Polis since it appeared to them unencumbered by some of the problems to which their system is prone.

Computers have clearly arrived in both the US Congress and the British Parliament; most would concede that they bring enormous benefits to the processes of law-making.

The question confronting parliamentarians is no longer whether to adopt computers, but rather how to plan effectively for their optimum use - bearing in mind that they will inevitably cause changes in the legislative process, already in the US Congress there are signs that improved access to information leads to more conflict and costly delay in decision-making.

Benedict Knox

The author, who is aged 17, is in his final year at The City of London School.

People in computers/Chris Curry, Acorn Computers

Waiting for the oak tree to grow

"There was a point where we nearly didn't go into the personal computer business", admits Chris Curry, of Acorn Computers. "Our first computer, the Atom, was produced almost by a subversive call within the company. There were no indications that people wanted this type of thing."

But since 1979, when the Atom appeared, about 35,000 have been sold. Acorn's next model was selected for the BBC computer series, and was one of the choices for the Government's Micros in Schools scheme. Sales are now approaching 100,000.

"I always felt there was a good opportunity", says Curry. "I wasn't surprised, but very pleased."

This month, Acorn is launching its low-cost home computer, the Electron, and is about to enter the United States market. The company is spending \$270,000 to show the BBC micro programmes on America's public broadcasting network, and hopes to sell 50,000 computers by the end of the year.

It's a dramatic change for Chris Curry, an electronics engineer by training. Now 37, he spent 15 years working for Clive Sinclair, Britain's pioneer of pocket calculators and home computers.

In the mid-1970s Curry was running Science of Cambridge, in which Sinclair had the majority stake, when he met Hermann Hauser, a young



Austrian who had just gained a physics PhD at Cambridge.

Hauser was interested in microprocessor applications, and the two men formed a consultancy called Cambridge Processing Unit (CPU). "There was a point when it looked as though we were going into the industrial control business," says Curry, "and there was a dichotomy in the company about the way we should go."

Curry and a couple of other engineers worked in secrecy on the microcomputer, which was to become the Atom. "As soon as it appeared in its breadboard form," Curry says, "everybody thought: what a nice little thing."

Today, Curry and Hauser are joint managing directors of Acorn Computers, which was formed in 1978 to market the Atom. They share a large office, and their rapport seems absolute.

Curry sees education as a market where Acorn can dominate, but his ambitions do not end there.

"We are not placing any limits on the size we can grow to," he says. "We see the Electron as a very powerful threat to the existing dominance by Sinclair and the Commodore VIC 20. We hope to get half the home computer market."

In the small business area "we want to be in there getting all the people who are buying Apples". He plans to sell to larger business users, too.

It's a long way from working on the bench with Clive Sinclair. What are his relations now with his erstwhile employer and present rival? "We quite often meet socially," Curry says. "These days we don't talk much about business."

Roger Woolnough

The week/Clive Cookson

The race to sell off Altergo

The precariousness of the fragmented British software industry has been highlighted by last week's news that Altergo, one of the best known companies in the field, has gone into receivership.

Altergo was Britain's leading independent producer of software for IBM computers. The 14-year-old group employed about 300 people and had a turnover last year of £8.7m, including a lot of export work.

The receivers, London accountants Thornton Baker, are working very fast to sell off the five Altergo operating companies before their main asset - the staff - disappears.

The only one to make that interest public was Oxford-based Telecomputing, whose managing director Bernard Pantou said: "I think it (Altergo) will turn to dust very quickly unless something happens fast."

Telecomputing, which specialises in ICL software, sees the purchase of Altergo as an attractive diversification into the larger IBM market.

Altergo's financial crisis follows the resignation of several senior managers and the return to the United States of American financier Leonard Levy, who became managing director just three months ago.

The computer industry's (few) sentimentalists are mourning the death of one of its oldest and most respected names: Univac. This month the Sperry Corporation's Sperry Univac computer business became known simply as Sperry.

announced just before its remaining, was to win an initial \$32m contract to supply the US Navy with its next generation of standard medium-sized computers. The job is likely to be worth more than \$500m over the next five years, and it follows Sperry's success two months ago in winning a \$476m order from the US Air Force, that said to be the largest commercial computer order on record.

ICL has passed through the first spasms of City doubt about its future since the dark days of 1981. Rumours swirled around the brokers, about delays and difficulties with the company's various collaborative ventures.

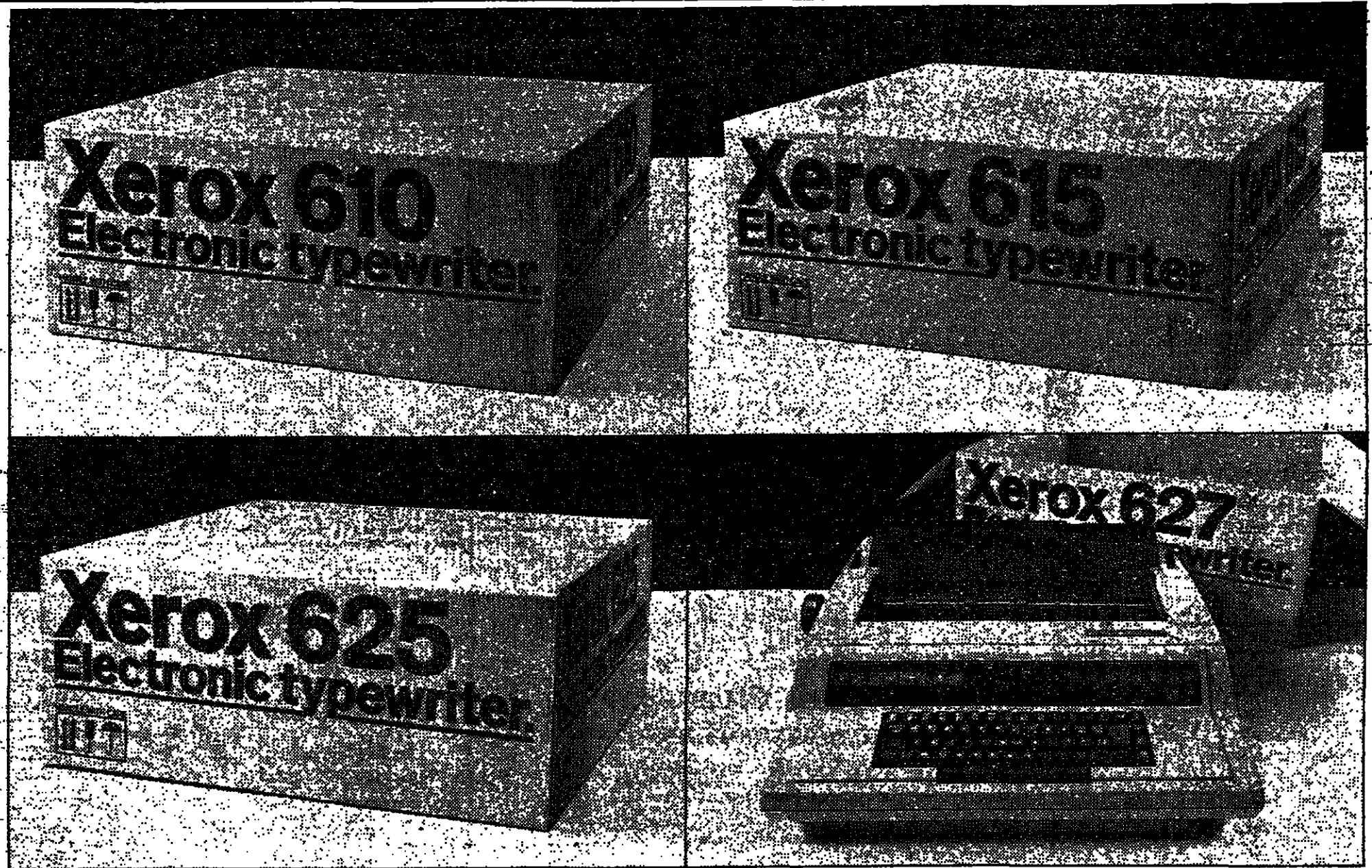
Fortunately the City seems now to have realized that there was no truth in the most worrying story, that ICL's main collaboration with Fujitsu to open a new generation of mainframe computers had fallen a year behind schedule. "ICL's collaborative arrangements with Fujitsu are progressing as planned and all activities are on target," insisted Sir Christopher Laidlaw, chairman of ICL, when he opened the company's new £21m mainframe development facility at West Gorton, Manchester.

The first integrated circuit chips designed by ICL and manufactured by Fujitsu for incorporation in the ICL DM1 and Estriel computers are already working in prototype systems in ICL's development centre at West Gorton, Sir Christopher added.

But the company does acknowledge delay in another venture. Production of Mitel's new electronic telephone exchange, the SX2000, is at least nine months late; this is a significant setback for ICL's office automation strategy, in which the Mitel exchange will play an important role.

The author is Technology Correspondent.

Computer Appointments appear on page 22.



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COMPUTER HORIZONS

20,000 pages of data for your micro

A new world of information is available for users of home micros for an electronic "magazine", Micromet 800. This is the latest in a long string of computer titles published by Richard Hease, offering for an initial payment of £50, a database of some 20,000 pages, rising soon to 30,000.

By the use of a personal identity number, a subscriber is able, by a telephone link, to call up educational, business, domestic utility and games programs, in addition to more general manufacturers' news, reviews and advertisements.

There will be sections in the system for all popular makes of micros, and within these sections will be offered 100 free programs to be downloaded directly on to tape or disc. Additionally, there will be a selection of chargeable software sold by commercial producers.

Adaptors are being made initially for the BBC micro, with Apple, Pet, Sirius, Tandy and Research Machines next on the line. The business has a break-even figure of 12,000 subscribers, and Mr Hease hopes that there will be 15,000 by Christmas, rising to 100,000 by March, 1986.

It is operated jointly by the publishing group EMAP and Mr Hease's own company, ECC Publications, with British Telecom providing the means of access to the system via Prestel. At present, 62 per cent of the country has only to make a local telephone call to enter the system. This will rise to 92 per cent by the middle of this year.

With the annual rental of £52, users will also gain access to the Prestel network and its 250,000 pages of information, giving the much needed growth to the hitherto languishing system.

If the experience of a similar system in the United States is duplicated here, one of the most used aspects would be the "electronic mail box" facility. This enables a subscriber to send messages from one terminal to another, or leave them on a "notice board" for collection when the recipient next comes on line.

This could be a valuable facility for any school subscriber. Since many schools are working on software applications in something of a vacuum, the ability to publicise their research should considerably cut down on duplication of effort, and make available a much closer cooperation with their colleagues.

Geoffrey Ellis

Catching the rustlers Don't move or I'll reach for my database

If Wyatt Earp and all the other great lawmen of the American West were starting out today to combat cattle rustling, the speed of their six guns would count for less than their sophistication with computers.

The largest private anti-rustling organization in the United States is the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, TSCRA.

The non-profit, 104-year-old group employs 32 Special Texas Rangers as field investigators, and 90 "brand inspectors" who record on special forms the brands and other identifying data on six to eight million head of cattle sold annually at 185 sale barns in Texas.

They also record the name and address of each seller, and the licence number of his truck. And all this information comes to TSCRA headquarters in Fort Worth where, since 1967, it has been microfilmed.

But it would be wrong to think that computers have given the cattlemen an unfair advantage. Unfortunately, rustlers have kept up with the times, too. Fast trucks, CB radios and walkie-talkies enable rustlers to grab cattle in one state during the night and unload them two states away the next day.

One rustler, now serving a 20-year jail sentence, operated from Arkansas into Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado. When arrested he was using his own truck, but his trailer - stolen in Texas - was loaded with cattle stolen in Oklahoma. A bullock can be worth \$1,000 (£660); a trailer-full worth \$20,000 (£13,300). So the stakes are high.

Don C. King, Secretary-General Manager of TSCRA, said: "We've done a hell of a job of inspection and information recording for years. But in the past when our investigators needed information, we just had to go through the microfilm to check it. It was slow and we were just wearing out the film, going through it so much."

When a field investigator gets a report of cattle with a certain brand being stolen, he asks for a computer check of all cattle sold with that brand during the relevant period, plus the name of each seller, and the name of any suspected rustler. The computer quickly produces a summary list of appropriate microfilm cartridge numbers and document numbers and a microfilm operator produces copies of the original forms the field inspector filled out.

These go to the investigator. He uses them to track down the man who sold the cattle and determine if there was an intermediary.

Sometimes investigators must interview four to five honest cattle traders before they get to actual rustlers. This can mean a lot of tedious, detailed digging and tracking for weeks or months.

Occasionally, it can lead to a little "gun-slinging", and Special Rangers carry modern automatics.

The computer can run a search in 30 minutes, although a complex search takes twice the time. Another hour is required in the microfilming department to find the documents and produce the prints. Thus in just two hours, the system can check through, typically, all transactions in a six-month period, involving three to four million head of cattle.

During 1980, TSCRA field inspectors, working in close cooperation with state and local officers developed 231 theft cases, primarily involving cattle. Of these, 103 were tried, resulting in total sentences of 133 years in prison, 244 years' probation, 23 years' suspended sentences, two years' deferred sentences and 21 cases dismissed. Restitution was made to the tune of \$121,499 and fines totalled \$21,324.

Alan Lewis



A Special Texas Ranger checking data in the field to beat the rustlers.

On one theft and we suspect him of more.

The association selected the Univac 90/30 system because it provided the most power for the fewest dollars. It processes all the accounting, billing and mailing lists for the house magazine. Only about 50 to 60 per cent of its time is spent searching for rustlers, depending on the season.

Today, everything is geared to the computer," said Mr King. "Before, we used to think we did a fantastic job combating rustlers, but not compared to what we can do now."

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Alan Lewis

The jokes have turned sour on a great club The ghosts of City's past are still haunting Maine Road

In the early sixties, as Manchester City sunk to the second division stagnation from which Malcolm Allison and Joe Mercer rescued them, a cruel little ditty was current in Manchester, although only among United's followers. To the tune of "There's a Tavern in the Town" it informed us that: "There's a circus in the town, in the town with Joe Hayes as chief clown, chief clown."

The club's chairman, Peter Swales, replies any suggestions that Bond had kept his club car and received a settlement in the region of £60,000 in spite of his resignation being apparently his decision, it adds further fuel to the speculation in Manchester about his abrupt departure, along with some suggestions that he would like his job back.

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office, his replacement and former assistant, Benson, has not moved in there either.

Understandably, especially as Bond had kept his club car and received a settlement in the region of £60,000 in spite of his resignation being apparently his decision, it adds further fuel to the speculation in Manchester about his abrupt departure, along with some suggestions that he would like his job back.

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Allison (left) and Bond: no stability

different as a businessman", he said. "He built his business by a series of inspired gambles, and that's what he has done at City. Only this time his luck ran out."

Certainly Mr Swales is unrepentant, admitting that mistakes were made, but adding that the club were unlucky rather than irresponsible in the transfer market, having no control over its collapse. He also admits, although he rejects utterly Trevor Francis's charge that City paid him much higher wages than he wanted, that high wages were much more damaging than their transfer dealings, and that the club have not set their face against meeting excessive wage demands.

And although rumour in Manchester has it that a vice-presidency can be had for a £100,000 loan, so painful is City's plight, Mr Swales says that, on the contrary, things are now under control and the club will be able to afford to sign new players in the summer, when he still confidently expects them to be a first division team.

One hopes he is right. For although Mr Swales must take a major share of the blame for the club to its knees financially.

Although the club subsequently recouped most of the money on Francis, who remains a valuable asset, Bond's other dealings lost £1.2m. When Francis was sold, and other players allowed to leave as the club cut back desperately, there was a net loss of £1.2m. The club's first division until Christmas, the cracks had already started to appear when he resigned. Benson has replaced the damaged club.

It is a sorry tale, almost a classic of how not to run a football club. Understandably, the man who presided over it, Mr Swales, the first of the high profile chairmen, has been a man to come under local criticism. Understandably, for if football men are not necessarily sound financially, wealthy businessmen are expected to be. An Allison's deficit (said by the chairman to be "around £1m") and perhaps slightly overstates Bond's (said to be "around £1m").



Peter Ball

current situation, he also deserves credit for the many good things the club has done under his leadership. They are one of the most open, friendly and decent of clubs. Their Junior Blues programme for young supporters is a model of its kind, and their planned development of their training ground, to provide community facilities for local youngsters also offers a lead to several of their more famous rivals.

It would be a pity if Mr Swales's almost obsessive desire to challenge the national institution across Manchester led City to lose their local identity which gives them a virtual monopoly of local talent - five of their back six against Liverpool were Manchester boys, while United have only one in Mr Swales' cast out the lesson he says he has learned from their recent problems "that winning is the only thing that matters". The affection many feel for his club testifies that that is not so, even if the affection is frequently tinged with exasperation.

Peter Ball

Comings and goings

Table with columns for player names, clubs, and transfer fees. Includes Allison, Bond, Swales, and various players like Hunt, Robinson, and Daley.

Computer Appointments

Advertisement for Leicester Polytechnic Information Technology, offering computer systems technician and software technician courses.

Advertisement for Systems Designers Limited, Software Consultants for Telecommunications, offering project manager and consultant services.

Advertisement for Logica Finance Group, offering mini-Assembler Programmers and Analyst/Programmers, London based, £8,000-£12,500.

VOLLEYBALL

Harriers go up to top flight. The success of RAF Harriers in becoming the first side from the Services to make the first division of the English League reflects the growth of the sport within the Royal Air Force.

SQUASH RACKETS

Penalty-point rule change likely. An important rule change involving the introduction of a penalty point before disqualification, looks likely after incidents that have afflicted the sport of squash recently.

HOCKEY

Scots earn point for enterprise. From Joyce Whitehead. Argentina's defeat of West Germany on Sunday evening in the World Cup tournament here was a surprise yesterday's goalless draw between Scotland and the top seeded Netherlands was almost a miracle.

Advertisement for Project Manager, £16,000 neg, My client is a large software house based in London.

Advertisement for Basketball Administrators' dilemma, By a Special Correspondent, The threat by Bolton, the winners of basketball's second division, to ensure the game's administrators over their refusal to promote the English Basketball Association (EBBA) in an unparalleled dilemma.

Advertisement for Family on both sides, Family interest in schoolboy international hockey will be divided between Swansea and Dublin when the home counties championships are played today and tomorrow.

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Advertisement for Family on both sides, Family interest in schoolboy international hockey will be divided between Swansea and Dublin when the home counties championships are played today and tomorrow.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or reference.

Wartime bomb defused by Army

Central London traffic was almost brought to a standstill yesterday morning by the discovery of a Second World War German bomb capable of lethal damage within a half-mile radius, John Witherow writes.

The 112lb leucy of the Blitz was dragged from the Thames riverbank on Sunday night by a dredger, working opposite the Festival Hall. The device, about 30in long and severely corroded, was moved gingerly down stream to the other side of Waterloo Bridge where it was placed on a barge to be defused.

The danger of an explosion as an army bomb disposal team drilled through the outer casing led police to cordon off an area within a half-mile between 7.30am and 11am. Office workers in buildings nearby were evacuated and others told to keep away from windows.

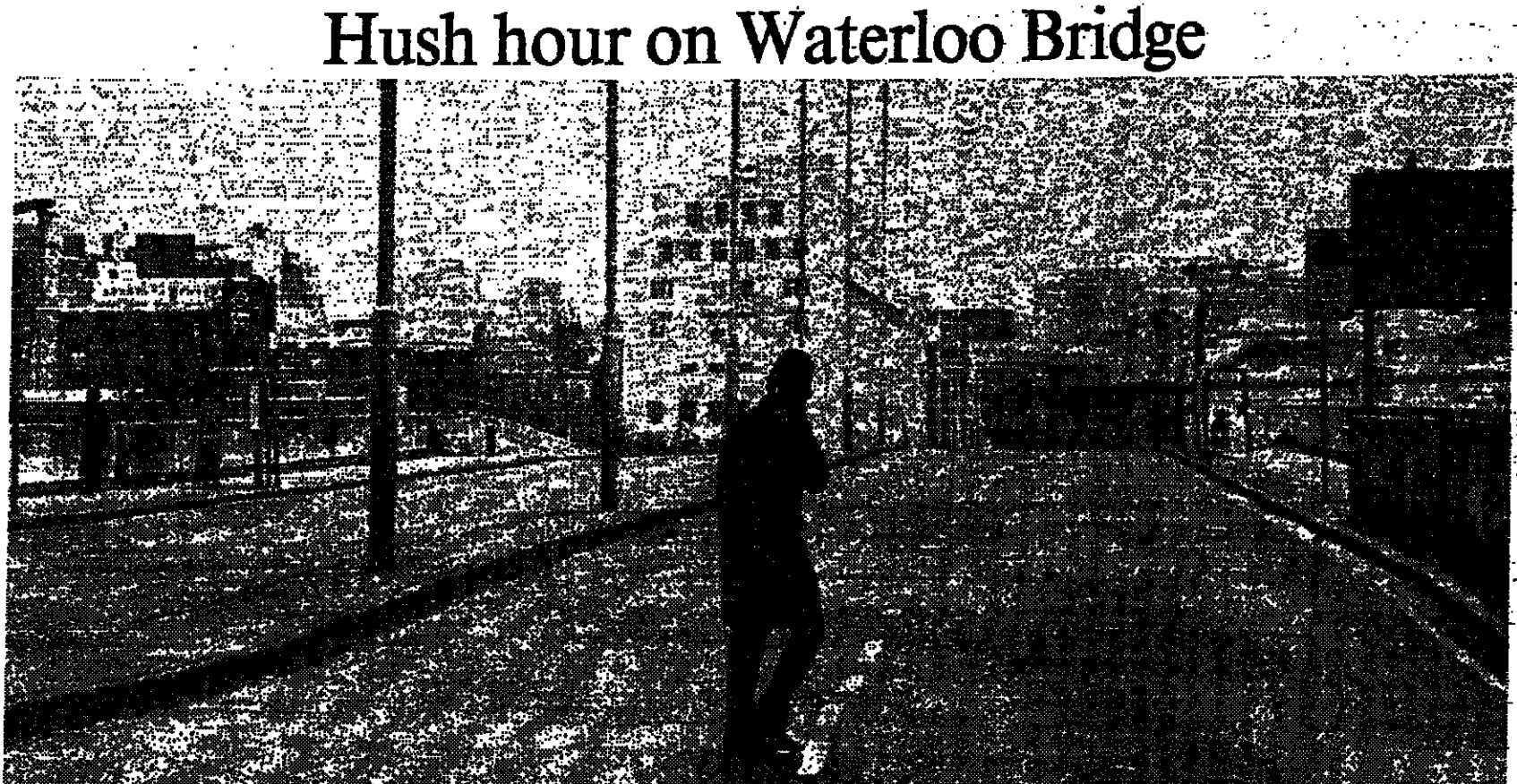
Police closed three bridges, three mainline stations and prevented passengers leaving certain Underground stations. Hundreds of buses were diverted and traffic jams stretched for miles either side of the river. The Automobile Association said there was worse congestion than during the rail strike last year.

About 70,000 passengers who use Charing Cross, Blackfriars and Waterloo East stations were diverted or had to get off at earlier stops. The Greater London Council estimated that about 40,000 vehicles would have used Westminster, Waterloo and Blackfriars bridges during the four hours they were closed.

Major John Quin, training officer of 33 Engineer Regiment, based at Chatham, Kent, was called in at midnight on Sunday to work on the bomb. At dawn, it was decided to drill into the casing and inject fluid to block the parts.

It took Major Quin, aged 42, who recently completed a five-month tour of duty in the Falklands clearing Argentine bombs and mines, and Lance-Corporal Michael Rowley about 70 minutes to make the bomb safe. "It was in perfect working order inside", Major Quin said. "The Germans were very good at clockwork."

The defused bomb was put on board a police launch which took it down river. It was later detonated at the army weapons testing range at Shoeburyness, Essex.



Major John Quin and Lance-Corporal Michael Rowley who are seen (right) successfully defusing the bomb on the barge.

The unexploded bomb which brought much of central London to a halt yesterday is a reminder of the hidden mass of armaments that still remains in Britain 38 years after the end of the Second World War, David Hewson writes.

The Royal Engineers believe it will take a further 40 years to clear all the known bomb danger areas in the country, most of which are the sites of former Army training ranges of the last war.

But German bombs are likely to turn up in the most public of

places for even longer. Between September 7 and December 13, 1940, at the height of the blitz, German bombers dropped 13,651 tons of high explosive and 12,586 incendiary canisters on London.

While most of the unexploded devices in the capital have been detected, the Thames is thought to contain a deadly legacy of aerial weapons which failed to detonate, like yesterday's, because they fell into the soft, muddy riverbed.

The bomb yesterday was a common 50-kilogram type

which was dropped in clusters on raids over the capital in the early years of the war. It contained a clockwork fuse still capable of detonating the explosive nearly 40 years after the weapon was manufactured.

Its defusing involved close liaison between the disposal team from 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) and its headquarters in Chatham, Kent, where records of the fusing systems of thousands of standard international bombs are kept.

When the type of bomb was known the Chatham centre

correctly identified its fuse as a hazardous clockwork design.

Chatham dealt with 13 unexploded Second World War bombs in Britain last year and confidently expects to be kept busy by others in years to come. Though the bomb yesterday may have made its presence known in the most public of ways, it is only 14 months since a similar bomb closed the Thames to river traffic between Southwark Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge before being defused.

Former army training ranges in remote country and coastal areas which had previously been declared safe after being swept by engineers have now, under new techniques, disclosed some remaining weapons.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Perverse bodies invade the House of Brutes

Back from the Easter recess, members eased themselves gently. Question time was concerned first with Wales and later with "the arts". Labour members, in particular, tend to make a show of being in favour of both.

The first, Wales, provides them with a large portion of their seats. The second, "the arts", provides them with a large portion of their conviction that they are more sensitive than the Conservatives.

In truth, quite a few gnarled trade union Labour backbenchers hate "the arts" just as much as the average Tory. These brutes do not see why their constituents, particularly in the North, should subsidize, say, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and therefore the pleasures of Sir Claus Moser and Lord Drogheda.

This is an extremely understandable attitude on the part of the brutes, and one to which I, a grateful Metropolitan beneficiary of such subsidies, cannot think of a satisfactory answer, perhaps because there isn't one. So these Labour backbenchers tend to be terrorized into acquiescence, on arts subsidies issues, by the more powerful Sensitive Tendency within the party.

The more brutish Conservatives are almost as easily cowed into submission on the matter. But Mr Harvey Proctor, the Conservative member for Basildon, demanded yesterday that Mr Paul Channon, the Minister for the Arts, look into the administration of the Arts Council, particularly "in regard to the public concern about certain peculiar and perverse grants of money to different bodies".

Until this moment, the different bodies to which Mr Proctor was most noted for concerning himself, were immigrants. Being an extremely out-right-winger, Mr Proctor has spent much time demonstrating that too many different bodies are being allowed into the country. But now he was branching out into the arts.

What did he have in mind by these "peculiar and perverse grants of money" to these "different bodies"? Or did he mean that it was the bodies which were "peculiar and perverse"? For he would surely be among the first to protest that a lot of people in the arts have peculiar and perverse bodies: it turned out that Mr Proctor had in mind

certain "fringe theatre groups".

Mr Proctor asked for "a departmental review inquiry into the workings of the Arts Council". He was enunciating the inescapable sentiment that the Arts Council wasted quite a lot of public money on terrible art.

But, because it was Mr Proctor who was saying it, hardly any other members could openly agree with him even though he undoubtedly had support in many countries of the kind that lay beyond his native Philistia or Basildon.

"I have not heard the sort of complaints to which my honourable friend (Mr Proctor) has referred," replied Mr Channon, "preposterously. I have heard many complaints about the subsidized theatre? Mr Cannon's social round must be extremely raffish, or perhaps confined to circles which seldom go to the theatre."

Mr Channon explained that it had long been the tradition of governments - of both political persuasions to adopt towards the Arts Council "the arm's length principle". This principle turned out to be, not a subsidized method of action painting of the kind fashionable in the 1970s, but the principle that governments did not intervene in the way the Arts Council spent money.

This confirmed Basildon's brooding suspicions.

Mr Clement Freud, himself a minor art in his own right, was among those who came to the aid of the minister and of civilization. The Liberal member of the Isle of Ely suggested that there should be investment "in some marketing men for the Arts Council" - perhaps offering by implication his own services, so that the arts could become to the 1980s what dog food was to the 1970s. "The honourable member has made a valuable point," the always-courteous Mr Channon replied.

All this was too much for Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, the Tory member for Birmingham, Selly Oak. "The reason why the arts need more and more subsidies is that they keep on putting on more plays or music or art exhibitions that the people they are meant for do not want."

But then Mr Philip Whitehead, the Labour spokesman on the arts, intervened. He had a beard. That confirmed the worst suspicions of Mr Proctor and Mr Beaumont-Dark.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother opens the Bomber Command Museum at Hendon, 3.
The Duke of Gloucester, as Grand Prior, the Order of St John, installs the new Prior of Scotland at St Andrew's and St George's Church, Edinburgh, 10.58.
The Duchess of Kent opens the Dr Jan de Winter Clinic for Cancer Prevention Advice, Brighton, 11.30; and visits the Copper Cliff Hospice, Brighton, 2.30.

New exhibitions

Lithograph by Alberto Giacometti, Museum and Art Gallery, 1, Leitchfield Street, Walsall; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45; (from today until April 30).
Photographs by Colin Baxter, Rozelle House, Rozelle Park, Ayr; Mon Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (from today until May 4).
Model Futures: contemporary British architecture, Institute of Contemporary Art, The Mall, SW1; Tues to Sun 12 to 9, closed Mon; (from today until May 22).

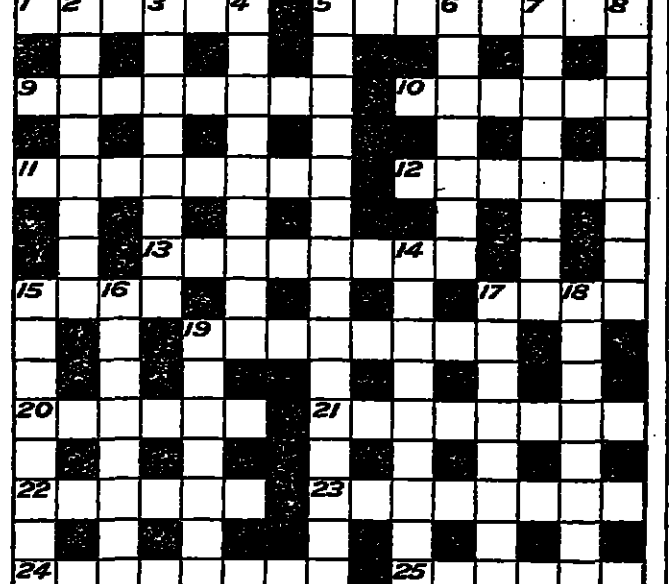
Exhibitions in progress

Goya's Tauromacquia, the complete set of 33 etchings, National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Princes Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until April 27).
Glasgow Made It, bicentenary exhibition by Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until April 24).
Work by Jerry Coleman, Kim Kempshall and Peter Prestell, Timmins Gallery, 2A Salisbury Road, Moseley, Birmingham; Mon to Fri 10 to 4, Wed 10 to 7.30, closed Sat and Sun; (until April 22).
Work by Richard Long, Arncliffe Gallery, Narrow Quay, Bristol; Tues to Sat 11 to 8, closed Sun and Mon; (until May 7).
Artists from the Nicholas Treadwell Gallery in London, Museum and Art Gallery, Newport, Gwent; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 4; (until April 23).
Sporting prints lent by the British Sporting Art Trust, Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk, Leicester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30, closed Fri; (until May 3).
Paintings by Peter Phillips, Southampton Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Southampton; Tues to Sat 11 to 5.45, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon; (until May 6).
The Ritual of Gathering Grain: Photographs by Garry Miller, Usber Gallery, Lincoln Road, Lincoln; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2.30 to 5; (until April 24).
Canons from the late 19th century to 1960, Folk Museum, 99-103 Westgate Street, Gloucester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun; (until May 14).
Early Victorian lithographs by William Richardson, Fenington Gallery, 10 Church Street, Ilkley, Yorkshire; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Wed and Sun; (until April 30).

New books - hardback

A selection of interesting books published this week:
Criminal Path, by R. Bucknham-Fisher (Hutchinson, £12.95).
In Character, by John Mortimer (Allen Lane, £5.95).
In Search of Love and Beauty, by Ruth Prewer, Jitavala (John Murray, £5.50).
John Singer Sargent, by Curtis Ranshiff (Phaidon, £20).
Lions and Tigers, edited by Vernon Scudgell (Corgi, £17.50).
Moral Tales, by Giacomo Leopardi (Corgi, £2.95).
The Best of Ronald Dahl, (Michael Joseph, £9.95).
The Eisenhower Diaries, edited by Robert H. Ferrell (Horton, £16.25).
The Last Testament of Oscar Wilde, by Peter Ashroy (Hamish Hamilton, £7.95).
The Principles of Architecture, by Michael Foster (Phaidon, £15).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,101



- ACROSS**
- 1 He represents this member of a noble group (6).
 - 5 Top gear, to get off US highway (8).
 - 9 You'll find one such letter in post (8).
 - 10 Navy had taken one from this quarter-deck (6).
 - 11 Like our country, a live of industry? (8).
 - 12 One of the guard intended for Alice, for example (6).
 - 13 Mount outside first three in National, so stop running (8).
 - 15 Maiden speeches, medicine in parts (4).
 - 17 Products, say of mine, used by crew (4).
 - 19 Medical records - but not for Dr. Watson (4-4).
 - 20 Martial expedition for this sea-raider (6).
 - 21 Not necessarily kept out of the limelight, however (8).
 - 22 Little Mary's Jabberwocky tree (6).
 - 23 Brewer & Co so poorly equipped? (3-5).
 - 24 The way 9 in form can provide diversion (4,4).
 - 25 In order to get top-class for (6).
- DOWN**
- 2 I see you are heard in record with US philosopher (8).
 - 3 What's more, it's a sincere conversion (8).
 - 4 Mother comprehends older sort of play (8).
 - 5 Carroll's slithy invention - might appear in a 19ac? (11,4).
 - 6 Grant opponents shelter from blows here (3,4).
 - 7 Maiden over? I can change all that (8).
 - 8 Artist not, as much upset as prince (8).
 - 14 Not a single female in this outfit (9).
 - 15 Yanks up and down, using this muscle (8).
 - 16 Good shot, Monsieur Noah (8).
 - 17 Seen on stage near Texas (8).
 - 18 Backing for show about Royal Society (8).
 - 19 Master has to study question endlessly (7).
- Solution of Puzzle No. 16,100**
- Talks, lectures**
Planning Materials, Men and Machines, by L. Bunyan, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 2.
- General**
British International Antique Dealers Fair, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, 11 to 9 today, 11 to 6 tomorrow, last day.

Sheep worrying

The Central Office of Information reminds dog-owners to keep their pets under control in the countryside, especially now during the lambing season.

If your animal is responsible for sheep worrying, you could be fined, lose your dog, and have to pay the farmer damages. He could even shoot it if there is no other way of stopping it attacking his sheep. You can be fined £200 if your dog is not on a lead or under close control in a field or enclosure where there are sheep.

Roads

London and South-east A591: City Road. Partially closed N of Old Street roundabout, City of London. Chelsea Bridge: Only one lane open each way. M11: Single lane open northbound from junction 5 (Loughton) to junction 7 (Harlow).

Wales and West A40: Temporary signals at Cheltenham Road roundabout, Gloucester; diversion signed. A49: Temporary signals at Abersoch, N. Wales. M5: Roadworks on Exeter viaduct, Devon.

Midlands and East Angles A10: Temporary signals at Southway, Norfolk. A1: Lane closures on Stangate Hill, near Alconbury, Cambridgeshire. M1: Only hard shoulder and nearside lane open southbound from junction 14 (Milton Keynes) to junction 13 (Woburn).

North: A596: Lane closures and temporary signals between Greenoddy and Llanfair, Cambridgeshire. Lane closures between junctions 25 (A49, Wigton) and 27 (A5209, Wigan/Standish), Greater Manchester; roadworks until November.

A6: Temporary lights on Preston Road, Whittle-le-Woods, Lancashire.

South-east: A77: Lane closures between Loganswell and Ayr boundary, Strathclyde. M9: Lane closures between junctions 6 (Falkirk) and 7 (M876, Kincardine Bridge). A90: Forth road bridge closed southbound; all traffic shares northbound; all traffic shares information supplied by the AA.

Anniversaries

Deaths: William Kent, architect and landscape designer, Bridlington, Yorkshire, 1748; Pietro Trappasi (Metastasio), poet, Vienna, 1762; Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd president of the USA 1933-45, Warm Springs, Georgia, 1945. The first manned space flight, Yuri Gagarin in Vostok 1, 1961.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Miscellaneous Financial Provisions Bill, remaining stages.
Lords (2.30): Water Bill report.

Law courts

Easter sittings at the Royal Courts of Justice begin today.

The pound

	Bank	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell	Sell
Australia \$	1.81	1.73	
Austria Sch	27.10	25.30	
Belgium Fr	76.75	72.75	
Canada \$	1.93	1.85	
Denmark Kr	13.52	12.82	
Finland Mkk	8.65	8.15	
France Fr	11.35	10.89	
Germany DM	13.81	13.61	
USA \$	133.00	122.00	
Hongkong \$	10.49	9.94	
Ireland Pt	1.19	1.14	
Italy Lira	2230.00	2130.00	
Japan Yen	377.00	357.00	
Netherlands Gld	4.28	4.07	
Norway Kr	11.30	10.70	
Portugal Esc	156.00	142.00	
South Africa Rd	1.84	1.67	
Spain Pta	208.08	197.00	
Sweden Kr	11.77	11.17	
Switzerland Fr	3.24	3.06	
USA \$	1.56	1.50	
Yugoslavia Dnr	127.00	115.00	

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Orders can apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 327.3.
London: The FT Index closed up 8.9 at 683.9.

Weather

A ridge of high pressure will move from W across all areas.

6 am to midnight

London, central S, central N England, Midlands: Any remaining showers dying out soon, sunny intervals; wind NW, moderate or fresh, decreasing light; max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).

NE England, East Angles: Rather cloudy, some bright intervals, showers, frequent and possibly heavy over windward coasts; wind NW, fresh, decreasing; strong max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).

Channel Islands, SW, NW England, Wales: Dry, sunny periods; wind NW, moderate or fresh, becoming W, light; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

NE Scotland, Borders, Edinburgh, Angus, Northern Ireland: Dry, sunny periods; wind NW, becoming variable, light; max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Showers or longer outbreaks of rain, becoming wintery in the N; near normal temperatures, becoming rather cool.

High tides



Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.12	6.8	2.37	6.8
Aberdeen	1.50	4.0	1.49	4.0
Aberystwyth	7.58	2.2	7.12	2.2
Beaufort	11.28	3.2	11.48	3.1
Cardiff	7.24	11.4	7.42	11.5
Devonport	6.59	6.5	6.53	6.5
Dover	11.23	8.2	11.41	8.4
Exeter	11.23	8.2	11.41	8.4
Glasgow	5.38	5.1	5.03	5.0
Harwich	12.03	3.8	12.22	3.9
Hull	10.48	4.3	10.52	4.3
Isle of Man	8.54	6.9	8.38	7.3
Inverness	8.29	8.7	8.47	8.7
Leamington	6.11	6.2	6.13	6.2
Liverpool	11.45	3.1	11.45	3.1
Manchester	10.22	10.8	10.28	10.8
Marazion	6.52	6.4	6.24	6.2
Newport	6.42	6.7	6.40	6.7
Oban	6.20	3.9	6.40	3.8
Portsmouth	5.07	5.4	5.20	5.3
Reading	7.18	6.5	7.12	6.5
Southampton	11.23	4.4	11.23	4.4
Stornoway	7.18	6.5	7.12	6.5
Swansea	6.48	6.0	7.05	6.1
Torquay	11.17	4.0	11.17	4.0
Wales-on-Isle	12.22	4.0		

Tide measurement in metres; 1m = 3.28084ft.

Abroad

City	C	F	C	F
Alexandria	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Algeria	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Amman	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Antwerp	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Athens	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Bahia	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Bangkok	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Barcelona	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Bombay	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Buenos Aires	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Calcutta	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Cairo	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Cardiff	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Chennai	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Cebu	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Dakar	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Dhaka	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Dublin	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Geneva	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Hankow	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Hong Kong	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
London	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Lyons	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Manila	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Medan	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Mexico City	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Mumbai	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Nairobi	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Rangoon	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Reykjavik	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Rome	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Singapore	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Sourabaya	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Taipei	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Tokyo	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72
Yokohama	22.72	22.72	22.72	22.72

Executive Appointments are featured every WEDNESDAY

for details please ring 01-278 9161/5

مركزنا من لاصح